Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-005
Wednesday
9 January 1992

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FBIS-LAT-92-005 *8 January 1992*

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Cuba

Castro Accused of Ties to Drug Trafficking

PA0701164092 Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Jan (AFP)—"Fidel and Raul rule" Cuba; "they have absolute power, they control everything," Ileana de la Guardia, daughter of Cuban Colonel Antonio de la Guardia, told the Mexican magazine PROCESO. Col. De la Guardia was executed on 13 July 1989, along with General Arnaldo Ochoa Valdes and Mayor Amado Padron Trujillo, for his ties to drug trafficking.

During an interview published 6 January, De la Guardia said that cocaine bags were tossed into the sea from airplanes to be smuggled into Miami. "Neither my father nor any of the accused had enough rank to control Cuban airspace and coasts behind Fidel's back. Everybody in Cuba knows that."

Iliana de la Guardia, living in France under political asylum, admitted that her father, who worked for Cuban intelligence, and her uncle Patricio de la Guardia participated in some "illicit trade" operations because "they were obeying orders, as many others did and still do. What is unacceptable is that they were suddenly used as scapegoats."

She added that Antonio de la Guardia met with the Cuban president during the trial, and "Fidel told him the revolution was in peril, that he had to bear responsibility for everything, that he could not mention any higher ups, that everything should remain in the family, and not to worry because everything would work itself out later."

Ileana de la Guardia explained that those above her father in the hierarchy were "Luis Barreiro, chief of intelligence of the Interior Ministry, who in turn obeyed First Vice Interior Minister Pascual Martinez Gil and Interior Minister Jose Abrahntes, who died of a heart attack in jail while serving a 20-year sentence related to the same case.

She stressed that "Abrahntes depended directly on Fidel, but for very special missions my father would meet directly with Abrahntes or Pepin [Jose Alberto] Naranjo, Fidel's personal aide, the man closest to Fidel."

Col. De la Guardia, his daughter acknowledged, participated in "some" drug trafficking "operations" but was forced to accept responsibility for all the operations that were conducted; those he conducted and those conducted by other officers.

"Not just my father, but others were involved in drug trafficking," although they are now at large and their names were not mentioned in the trial because it "would threaten certain persons in Cuba."

Ileana de la Guardia, a Havana University graduate in psychology, said there were several reasons to involve her father in drug trafficking; "a political motive, since my uncle Patricio, and most of all Ochoa, had their differences with Fidel and openly told him about them."

She added that "one of the main sources of friction was the handling of the war in Angola," but "they also criticized the political economy of the revolutionary leadership. Ochoa did not secretly criticize Fidel."

Fidel "was afraid that what Ochoa and Patricio said so openly would become a trend in the armed forces," and "Ochoa was really a political victim. He had the ideal profile to replace Fidel: military prestige, broader political criteria, and the desire to modernize the Cuban system."

The Cuban dissident said she spent five months in Mexico without getting a temporary residency permit with the right to work, while Pedro Catela, an Argentine who works for Juan Abal Medina—adviser to the Mexican Government Secretariat "was pressing me to cooperate with the Cuban intelligence services."

Ileana de la Guardia asked PROCESO to conduct the interview because "I fear for the life of my uncle, Patricio de la Guardia," who was sentenced in the same trial as her father and whose "biggest crime was not to have accused his brother," since "he may be found dead in his cell at a any moment due to an 'illness.'"

Difficulties Blamed on Government's 'Incompetence'

PY0701142092 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] The current difficulties being faced by Cuba's communist regime have been caused by the "incompetence of its government" and not by the collapse of the communist system or by the U.S. blockade as maintained by Cuban President Fidel Castro. This statement is contained in the fourth issue of the Marti Association of Opponents to the Cuban Regime [Associacao Marti de Oposicao ao Regime—AMOR] mostly made up of government officials.

AMOR members have assert that Fidel is trying to force the country to return to the 19th century. For more than one year now, Cuba has experienced restrictions on consumption and on productive areas. Unless the situation improves the government will resort to the "zero option"—extreme rationing. According to AMOR, this means abandoning the cities and adopting a survival economy.

Inspired in Jose Marti, the hero of Cuban independence at the end of the last century, AMOR asserts that it has "cells in all the ministries, and even in the Army." During an interview to LE MONDE, three AMOR members—all of them high-ranking government officials—said that AMOR's objective is to "conduct an efficient struggle within the state and the Communist Party."

The AMOR members asserted that the U.S. blockade was never effective, since U.S. products can be found in

the special stores for foreign tourists and for a few thousand privileged Cubans.

They say that Cuba's great problem is that Fidel Castro has always tried to subject the country's economy to political decisions. This only worked during the times when the country received massive USSR subsidies. They quoted PRAVDA, formerly the official mouthpiece of the defunct CPSU and now an independent newspaper, which asserts that "Cuban medicine only exists thanks to the generosity of the Soviet people."

The now dismantled USSR accounted for 70 percent of Cuba's foreign trade. Moscow supplied oil to Cuba at prices below the international oil market price and purchased Cuban sugar at prices higher than the international market price. Relations changed following the changes implemented by former president Mikhail Gorbachev as of 1985.

In 1989, Cuba received 13 million tons of Soviet oil. In 1991, this quantity dropped to 9 million tons. Now, for the first time, Cuba will have to negotiate on the bases of real prices. The Cuban Government hopes to obtain enough currency to purchase 4 million tons of oil.

The reduced shipments of Soviet oil and other raw materials have already caused the closure of dozens of factories in Cuba and hindered production in most of the large Cuban businesses. One of those interviewed, an economist, asserted that only the military industry continues to work normally, but that even this sector could be affected if aid to Cuba continues to be cut.

Even the nuclear plant Cienfuegos, built with Soviet aid, is threatened. If it is ever commissioned it will be at less then half its capacity.

Regarding the changes that have taken place in Cuba since the 1959 revolution, AMOR issue No. 4 asserts that Cuba has dropped from being the first to the 12th or 13th highest income per capita in Latin America.

AMOR expected the Fourth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, held last October, to approve some changes necessary to adjust the country to the new situation. Those interviewed asserted that right from the election of the delegates—more than half of whom were appointed by the government—the congress clearly adopted an anti-reformist line.

Extension of People's Councils Advocated

PA0701192292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Cubans, immersed in their struggle for survival and development, still find time to analyze possible ways to improve their democracy, which, in light of the new times, requires a more unique Cuban design.

The objective of the authorities, particularly that of the Cuban legislature, is to give citizens a greater role in the decisionmaking process and develop mechanisms for popular consultation more effective.

To do this, the People's Government, which is the system of government prevailing on the island, is subject to changes as part of a process that will not disregard the achievements made by this system of government in the past 15 years.

Cuban deputies are studying possible changes and assessing the possibility of extending, to the rest of the nation, the experience gained by the implementation of the People's Councils, which have only been operating in the capital.

The People's Councils were created to support and complement the work done by delegates of the People's Government with the rank and file. Fourteen months after their implementation in Havana City, it can be said that the results are very favorable.

With the creation of this government link between the rank and file and the municipalities, a greater authority to solve community problems was established and a better control of the administrative apparatus was achieved.

The People's Councils have proven to be a powerful force capable of assuming additional responsibilities in the special period in times of peace Cuba is experiencing. Now, when available products are scarcer, the control tasks implemented by the community government are more important to comply with an old maxim of the revolution: The equitable distribution of available consumer goods.

In addition, the existence of this strong rank and file authority has permitted adequate coordination between state institutions and the mass organizations to satisfy the people's needs.

Fourteen months after the implementation of the People's Council in the capital, Havana residents already have a solid structure backing the People's Government. A possible extension of this project to the rest of the country is justified in view of the results that have been obtained.

Havana City Assesses Electric Power Use

FL0801023292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Several points have been discussed in Havana during the first meeting to assess electric power use by the city, which has to reduce its kilowatt-hour consumption even further. Jorge Lezcano, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Havana City, called upon the population of the capital to not exceed its electric consumption quotas in order to avoid long power outages in residential and industrial sectors.

The PCC Politburo member urged the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution to talk with every family, explaining the benefits of saving in their homes as much electric energy as possible. Lezcano asked the PCC cells, Union of Young Communists committees, labor unions, and workers to only use the electricity needed.

The initiative of the Habana Vieja Municipality, which assigned inspectors to constantly check the residential sector, was highlighted, as an example, during the analysis meeting. We believe, dear listeners, that what was described in this report is not a slogan or a publicity campaign; it is an urgent need prompted by the national economy in present times.

FMLN Combatants on Return to El Salvador

FL0701172492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report from San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU on 6 January—recorded]

[Text] [YSU announcer] We are beginning today's program of "Tell Us" [Digalo Ud.] Today is a very special day for this program, because we are in direct communication with former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] combatants in Havana, Cuba, who are hoping to return to our country very soon after the signing of the peace agreements between the government of the Republic of El Salvador and the insurgent front. The time is now 2034 in Havana and 1934 in El Salvador.

We have on the telephone line one of the representatives of the community of FMLN war wounded in Havana. He is Juan Carlos Alvarado, age 26, a former combatant who was wounded in combat. He is the coordinator of the group of FMLN war wounded which is arranging for the return of the former FMLN combatants to El Salvador. Good evening, Juan Carlos. You are on the air. We would like first of all to hear greetings to the Salvadoran people through Radio Cadena YSU.

[Alvarado] Yes, good evening. I take this opportunity to convey fraternal and respectful greetings to our Salvadoran people, especially those who repopulated the towns of Segundo Monte, Gualcho, Ciudad Romero, Nueva Granada, Nueva Esperanza, San Carlos Leypa, Santa Marta, Las Flores, Las Minas, and La Mora. To all of them, who are sure to be listening, I would like to say that all of us here, their family members who are here in Havana, are enthusiastic and happy because of the most recent agreements that have been reached in the dialogue and negotiation process, and we are enthusiastic because we have arranged everything we have been able to arrange to be ready to return in a few months ...[corrects himself] I mean days, which is what we hope to do. Hello? Hello?

[YSU announcer] Juan Carlos?

[Alvarado] Yes?

[YSU announcer] We would like to ask you, and later we will ask your other comrades who are near the telephone, we would like to ask you, Juan Carlos, to tell us a little about your life in Havana. How did you come to Havana? How were you wounded in the war here in El Salvador? Go on.

[Alvarado] Well, I think my story is too long to tell, but I can tell you that I was wounded in combat, and our coming from our dear country to Havana was through the International Red Cross after a whole political battle was waged so we could go abroad to receive adequate medical care, which was denied us in our country. That is why we have now been here in Havana for five years. We have received very specialized medical care here. As a result of this, we have now completed our medical treatment. We have been rehabilitated to the extent possible, and we are now ready to return to our dear country.

[YSU announcer] Juan Carlos, where are you from in El Salvador? What town in El Salvador are you from?

[Alvarado] Santa Clara, San Vicente Department.

[YSU announcer] How many former wounded ...[corrects himself] wounded former FMLN combatants are there in Havana?

[Alvarado] Well, there are about 350 of us here.

[YSU announcer] Yes. I would like to remind our listening friends of Radio Cadena YSU that we are simultaneously broadcasting from Havana, Cuba, and the listening friends of YSU who would like to participate in this program can do so through our telephone numbers 24-25-25 and 24-18-47, which have been arranged for this. If you wish, you may call and ask questions of the FMLN war wounded who are connected here at this time of night through the telephone line from Havana, Cuba, with El Salvador through YSU.

Ross Meets With Visiting German Union Leaders

FL0801030592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, has said during a meeting with high-level German union leaders that a revolution can only be sustained by the people and that this is the main reason ours is strong. The visitors were interested in the education system, the outlook for the Cuban iron and steel industry, and how workers confront the special period, among others matters.

(Heide Glimler), member of the Secretariat of the Iron and Steel Industry Union of Germany, the largest organization of its kind in the world, said that he is pleased by getting to know the model of the Cuban union movement. (Glimler), who donated a copy of *100 Years Memoirs* of the German Union Movement, pointed out that in the face of the economic problems imposed on Cuba, it is essential to strengthen the ties between

German and Cuban workers and unions. He expressed his personal commitment to improve these ties and to raise the issue to make ties between the unions of both countries official.

Dominican Republic

National General Budget Law for 1992 Ratified

FL0701130392 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The executive branch has issued the National General Budget Law, according to information provided by Dr. Pedro Ramiro Confesor, legal advisor to the president. The Revenue Budget and Public Spending Law for this year amounts to 13,880,277,690 pesos. The bill was ratified by senators and deputies in less than 10 days. Although the legislators from the Dominican Liberation Party had advocated some amendments, the Revenue Budget and Public Spending Law was passed without modification.

Grenada

IMF Support for Adjustment Program Sought

FL0701160192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1341 GMT 7 Jan 92

[By Richard Simon]

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Jan 7, CANA—Grenada is seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) support for a three-year economic adjustment programme the government is putting together for implementation, Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite said.

"(While) we are not going to the IMF to seek assistance, which would allow them to say you, do this or that or you send home a thousand people... at the same time we want their support," Brathwaite told CANA. He said IMF support for the structural adjustment plan, aimed particularly at correcting fiscal imbalances, would allow Grenada to seek financing for its public sector investment programme.

Meanwhile, Brathwaite said members of a support group, set up by the government to "exchange expertise and experiences" in helping to correct Grenada's economic problems, were meeting here. The group includes East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Governor Dwight Venner, Carl Mitchell of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) economic secretariat, Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank Governor William Demas, Prime Ministers John Compton of St. Lucia, and Dame Eugenia Charles of Dominica, and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Vice President Marius St. Rose.

"We're using the expertise and capabilities available in the region so that we can present a programme that will better satisfy the problems of the country," Brathwaite said. Brathwaite suggested Caribbean countries should make more use of "regional brains" in dealing with their economic problems.

Referring to his experience living in Guyana under an IMF programme, Brathwaite told CANA: "I lived in one IMF country before and I will not live in a second."

Three months ago, representatives of the CDB, ECCB, OECS Economic Affairs Secretariat, and University of the West Indies authored a document containing proposals for correcting Grenada's economic problems. The measures included the reintroduction of direct income tax which the government rejected, a reduction of the public service, and a widening of the tax base.

Haiti

Nerette Remains in Office; Delegations to Caracas

FL0701200692 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpts] [Announcer] According to a joint communique issued by the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies, Provisional President Joseph Nerette will not be leaving office on 8 January. For further details on this score, Jean-Marie Ferari interviewed Senate President Dejean Belizaire, who also informed us of the departure of a parliamentary delegation to Caracas, in search of a final solution to the country's crisis.

[Begin recording] [Ferari] The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies issued a joint communique in which they have clarified the matter of the 8 January deadline for Joseph Nerette's term as provisional president of the country under Article 149 of the Constitution. According to Senate President Dejean Belizaire, the purpose of this communique is to put an end to all rumors circulating about that question.

[Belizaire] [passage omitted] I say on 8 January... [changes thought] That does not mean the provisional president must leave. I believe that 8 January corresponds to the deadline for the elections that should have been held. But it does not mean the end of Nerette's mandate. I think it is after we settle all that needs to be settled in finding a convenient solution to the crisis—so a new president can be elected to replace President Nerette—that his mandate will come to an end.

[Ferari] In the meantime, the Senate president said, they are continuing negotiations to obtain positive results for the country. Within the scope of these negotiations, a parliamentary delegation left for Caracas a short time after the two chambers issued the joint communique. This delegation consists of five parliamentarians and auxiliary personnel, including Senate President Dejean Belizaire, Chamber of Deputies President Duly Brutus, Senator Eddy Dupiton, Deputy Frantz Robert Monde, Deputy Pierre Canel Rindal. The auxiliary personnel includes Pierre Paret Larivaux. [passage omitted]

According to Senator Belizaire, the delegation will meet with the other Haitian party that is in Caracas. It will also meet with the Venezuelan president and several other parties concerned with this matter. May we point out that in addition to the parliamentary delegation, another delegation composed of people close to Jean-Bertrand Aristide left on 6 January. Included in the latter delegation were such personalities as Jean-Claude Bajeux of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, which is headed by Victor Benoit; Dr. Moliere; Paul Dejean; Micha Gaillard; and so on. Both delegations left in separate small planes provided by the Dominican Government. [end recording]

[Announcer] If the provisional president of the country, Joseph Nerette, will not have to leave power at this time, he will need to wait until a political solution results from the negotiations. Many observers are wondering whether we are moving toward the appointment of a new prime minister. If so, that prime minister will have to come from the center so as to avoid any extremism, and must have significant contacts on the international sphere, according to the statements of Senator Serge Joseph. [passage omitted]

More on Delegation in Caracas

FL0701223192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] A Parliament delegation left yesterday, 6 January, to meet with Father Aristide in Venezuela within the framework of ongoing negotiations for a new prime minister. Our reporter has more details regarding this trip.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] A possible meeting of the Chamber in a general assembly is foreseen within the two days before 8 January to discuss the political future of the country. According to a Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] senator, the delegation is due to return tomorrow, 7 January.

Remember that the delegation included Dejean Belizaire, president of the Senate; Duly Brutus and Frantz Monde, president and vice president of the Chamber of Deputies; also Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton and Deputy Joseph Pierre Canel. Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton and Deputy Joseph Pierre Canel are both members of the National Front for Change and Democracy which backed Aristide in the 16 December 1990 elections. OAS representative in Haiti, Laurent Paul Tardif, from Canada, along with the Senate secretary also accompanied the delegation to meet with deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in continued negotiations to find a solution to the political crisis.

A group of four people, Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, Dr. Jean Moliere, Professor Micha Gaillard, and Paul Dejean, also left Port-au-Prince on Monday afternoon for Caracas to meet with Father Aristide. Of this group, everyone except for Dr. Jean Moliere had already been to Caracas once, at the end of December, to meet with Father Aristide regarding the crisis in Haiti.

In Haiti, the name under consideration by the diplomatic sector close to the OAS for the post of prime minister is Rene Thoedore, a moderate Communist, president of the National Reconstruction Movement, and one-time opponent to the regime of Father Aristide. The names of Rene Theodore and Marc Bazin were suggested to the Senate and Chamber presidents. Marc Bazin is a centrist and president of the MIDH. Father Aristide had rejected the proposal of Marc Bazin and had asked for several conditions regarding the appointment of Rene Theodore if the parliament should reject the nomination of Victor Benoit as prime minister. Victor Benoit is the leader of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Conacom.

Parliament members close to Aristide have recently mentioned that pressures have been brought to bear on Father Aristide to force him to choose a different candidate for the post of prime minister in Haiti. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning on Plans To Liberalize Exchange System

FL0701153892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1232 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 7, CANA—Prime Minister Patrick Manning said plans by his three-week-old administration to liberalize the system of exchange control should not cause a devaluation of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar. The exchange control liberalization plan was announced in the ruling People's National Movement's manifesto for last month's general elections which returned the party to government after five years in opposition.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Manning assured: "....The liberalisation at this stage of the exchange control would not result in a devaluation." He added: "We have been watching very closely what has been happening with other countries, in particular Jamaica, and we have already identified one or two areas in respect of which we will take a different route on that matter."

Liberalization of the currency market in Jamaica has caused depreciation of the Jamaica dollar against major currencies, including the U.S. dollar. A consequence for Jamaicans has been an increase in the cost of living. The Trinidad and Tobago dollar has a current fixed exchange rate of 4.25 to one U.S. dollar.

On the issue of the trade liberalization which was scheduled to take effect from the beginning of this month, Manning said his government had started discussions with the World Bank for a postponement. Trade liberalization was one of the conditionalities attached to a World Bank structural adjustment loan, negotiated by the defeated A.N.R. Robinson government.

"We're a new government and we wanted to examine it very carefully," said Manning.

Woman Named House of Representatives Speaker

FL0701192292 Bridgetown CANA in English 1417 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 7, CANA—For the first time in the history of Trinidad and Tobago, a woman has been appointed speaker of the House of Representatives. The appointment of Occah Seepaul, a 52-year-old lawyer, was announced at a joint news conference on Monday by Prime Minister Patrick Manning and opposition leader Basdeo Panday after they had met for consultations. It was also announced that Emmanuel Carter, 63, will continue to serve as president of the Senate, upper house of the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament.

"The leader of the opposition offered no objections to either name," said Manning, following a 45-minute consultation with Panday, the first since last month's general elections.

Seepaul, who was called to the bar in 1964, is a former deputy director of public prosecutions and currently holds the post of master of the high court. She is also the sister of Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj.

Manning and Panday also agreed on consultation between the government and opposition on matters related to foreign affairs and energy, through a parliamentary mechanism which they intend to examine.

Perez Congratulates Manning, Extends Invitation

FL0701192792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1351 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 7, CANA—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has invited new Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning to visit the neighbouring South American country this year. In a letter congratulating Manning on his People's National Movement (PNM) victory at the polls last month, Perez said he hoped dialogue would transform into joint ventures between the two countries.

"I am sure that your presence in the highest post of government will allow us to continue and deepen our dialogue with a view to transform it into concrete co-operation projects to prepare our peoples for the sharing of the fruits of progress and to achieve their well-being within an integrationist vision," said Perez's letter which was made available to the press.

The Venezuelan leader added: "I wish to take advantage of the present opportunity to extend to you a cordial invitation to visit Venezuela this year, on whichever date may be convenient to you."

Trinidad and Tobago's relations with Venezuela improved under the former National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) government. The improvement resulted in several joint ventures in the energy sector and trade.

El Salvador

FMLN Commander Amaya on Peace Agreements

PA0701181592 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Interview with Gustavo Amaya, commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, by unidentified reporter at a Radio Venceremos studio; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] This is an interview with companero Gustavo Amaya. Gustavo, welcome to our guerrilla installations. We regard the results of the negotiation as a strategic victory for our people. Our objectives for this period have been reached. To begin our conversation, we would like to ask if we should lower our guard or, as the saying goes, rest on our laurels?

[Amaya] The agreements and the great revolutionary victory, which are the basis for a democratic revolution in El Salvador, were reached with the help of local, Latin American, and international support and through the efforts of thousands of men and women in the National Army for Democracy [END] and the people's movement. In our country, however, there are extreme right-wing people, whom we all know. For instance, Elena Fuentes' name still does not appear as discharged in the order of the day. There are also people like [Armed Forces Commander Leon] Linares; Medina Garay, the Junquillo butcher; and the economically powerful far rightists who own EL DIARIO DE HOY newspaper. Those people are turning over in their graves, so to speak. We say their graves, because graves are ready for them. We cannot return to the past. But because they are a powerful minority, our people and combatants are alert. For instance, [Armed Forces Commander Julio Cesar] Grijalva deploys troops in Usulutan. Leon Linares and High Command people persist on keeping [Armed Forces Commander] Biriarte, whose job we consider finished, in Perquin. That leads to confrontations and their attempts to try to nullify the agreements through a coup, boycott, or regressive movement. If that happens, the Salvadoran people and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] combatants will have to eliminate the far rightists once and for all.

[Reporter] What should be the role of Salvadoran youth now?

[Amaya] The young have always been and will always be revolutionary. Just as the young people entered war in the seventies with few resources and not much future, the role of young people in 1990 will be to join the National Civilian Police [PNC] as independent members, accept the police's function as the guarantor of security and human rights, and prevent the police from falling under the control of unscrupulous people. That is their main task. They will also strengthen the END. The organization must grow and keep its men under arms as long as the agreements are not enforced. Young people should struggle in all areas to fulfill the agreements and protect this victory of the people.

[Reporter] We have said END members will now work in production and PNC and political activities. How will the landless companeros who have been END members for 10 years be integrated into production?

[Amaya] The agreements stipulate that there will be a substantial reduction in the number of Armed Forces members. We have to take into account that there will be ex-revolutionary armed forces combatants as well. The government and the international community will assign land, particularly land under the agrarian reform program, to individuals or cooperatives. The state will also guarantee scholarships to professionally train our companeros in various areas of production. That will help to incorporate former END combatants into production with a steady job and make it possible to develop their true economic power.

[Reporter] Why does the FMLN say that with the New York agreements a strategic victory has been attained in our people's struggle?

[Amaya] It is a strategic victory because for more than 60 years no government or group has transformed society as it will now happen. We are going to dismantle the repressive apparatus, the dirty war system, and the death squads, all of which have kept in power for a long time a group of oligarchs. We are going to democratize land ownership. By that we mean to distribute the country's wealth among all Salvadorans so wealth can benefit the low-income people. In addition, we will make a reality a broad political system that will afford ample opportunity for democracy without terror or fear. In the past, there were laws that said the people were entitled to a better standard of living. But now the people will have, not only those rights ensured through the agreements, but the true power to have their say. That is revolutionary. More than 60 years have had to pass and more than 150,000 Salvadorans have died in the country, but their blood has not been shed in vain. It has yielded the fruit of a democratic revolution and laid the basis for the democratic revolution, which we will continue to advance and consolidate.

[Reporter] Based on media reports and what people are saying in radio interviews, it is clear that there have been political achievements. As you said, those achievements include constitutional amendments in the judicial and electoral areas and the elimination of repressive corps. However, what is still not clear is how we will accomplish effective social justice and a just distribution of wealth.

[Amaya] It is a process. This period of struggle, those 20 years of armed struggle, have made it possible to give the people real power, to give them the instruments, different weapons, so they can exert their rights. There will still be injustice and poverty but it does not mean they must continue. We will achieve real quotas of economic, political, and social power, and with those quotas of

power, with that enormous capacity, with the people's force, the people's mobilization, the combative struggle of all groups, we will completely transform our society; we will build a better system to eliminate injustice. But that will require a political and economic battle, a battle in all fields, in which we must show our capacity as revolutionaries to build a model that will really fulfill the needs of workers and society in general. This model is not necessarily capitalism.

[Reporter] You said we achieved a strategic victory, as we accomplished the objectives we established. In a few words, describe our next objectives.

[Amaya] We have a significant challenge ahead. The FMLN has always been a political force. With the new conditions that will exist in our society, we feel the alternative is not in neoliberal plans. We are a small country that needs national projects. Sectors that have been in the government here for so many years have only benefited a few. We feel that our main objective in the next phase will be to achieve power through elections—power in the government, municipalities, and Legislative Assembly through the FMLN's participation not only as a party, but as a party for elections, a party representing the people, a party that will be permanently linked to the struggles of workers, peasants, war wounded, and small and medium businessmen who want an alternative in El Salvador. Our great task is to complete the changes for democracy and social justice, not only as the holders of real power through conditions made available now to the Salvadoran people, but also by becoming an important part of the power held by the state by winning the elections in 1994 or 1999.

[Reporter] One more question Gustavo. On 10 January we will celebrate our 11th anniversary. Since you have been close to our radio station for the past 11 years, what role do you think our radio station should play in the period that lays ahead?

[Amaya] We must recall the 10th anniversary, which was [word indistinct]. I believe the 11th anniversary of Radio Venceremos could be condensed with the phrase: And We Won! Winning entails new tasks for Radio Venceremos; it entails broadening its radio scope to the various groups of our national life, particularly popular and democratic groups, expanding its programming, and becoming not only the official voice of the FMLN, but the voice of workers, peasants, and all those who want democratic change, a change in the social model for the Salvadoran people. It should also be a combative radio. One thing must be clear to our people: For 11 years it had a radio station that from the beginning committed itself to win. We achieved victory in the phase we are ending, and we will continue winning more victories, because the struggle continues and will be broadened to include many groups.

Army, Rebel Clashes 30 Dec-6 Jan Reported

PA0701173792

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on clashes between the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the National Army for Democracy, END, guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, reported between 30 December and 6 January.

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1854 GMT on 30 December issued a dispatch revealing that the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported that "one soldier was killed and three others were injured on 29 December" when "guerrilla forces attacked military positions in the town of Teotepeque, 52 km from the capital." The information adds that the FMLN continues to sabotage the coffee harvest and that rebel forces "destroyed more than 600 bags of coffee" on 28 and 29 December.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 31 December broadcasts a report from the "Modesto Ramirez Central Front General Command in Guazapa Hill." The report indicates that "between 0500 and 0800 on 30 December END forces seized control of a portion of the Suchitoto-San Martin highway, Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department," adding that the rebels "met with people traveling on that highway to report the current status of negotiations between the government and the FMLN." They also "held a news conference with local and international media." Furthermore, "at 0730, troops of 1st Infantry Brigade's Pantera Battalion and artillery troops arrived at Milingo and the outskirts of La Cruz, and clashed with our forces—which inflicted three casualties on the Pantera Battalion and five casualties on the artillery troops in Suchitoto." The information adds that "the enemy troops were supported by two UH-1H helicopters and one of the aircraft was hit by our fire."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 4 January reports that, "despite the two negotiating parties pledge to prevent situations that might result in clashes, on 2 January Armed Forces troops advanced toward Potonico, Chalatenango jurisdiction." The report says that "a clash ensued as a result of the Armed Forces decision to raid the area," and "we confirm that the 1st Military Detachment sustained seven casualties."

Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1619 GMT on 6 January carries an item citing an Armed Forces report that "three FMLN rebels died on 5 January when a rebel cell tried to raid the town of Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango Department," adding that "a group of FMLN snipers harassed a military detachment in the outskirts of Potonico, Chalatenango Department, but no casualties were sustained by the government troops." The information adds that "on 4 January one rebel died and four were injured in Mercedes de Umana, Usulutan Department, when they attacked a military post."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 6 January reports that "the antidemocratic Armed Forces have violated the pledge from the negotiating table—namely to advocate an atmosphere that would result in an informal truce;" adding that, in accordance with "the plans to attack our territories and provoke our forces to engage in clashes," at "1100 on 4 January troops of the 5th Infantry Brigade's Tehuacan Battalion" advanced "toward territory under our control in Canton San Benito and Canton La Barca, Mercedes de Umana jurisdiction, Usulutan Department—thus violating territories under our control and forcing us to defend our territories." The information adds that "the clash began at 1440 and it lasted two hours; and the enemey sustained three dead and two injured." The military report also "deplores the heroical death of Sergeant Rigoberto Luna Mejia, alias Pablo, who sacrificed himself for our people's liberation."

Rebel Station: Cristiani 'Manipulating' Agreements

PA0701194692 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 Jan 92

[Station commentary: "The President's Threats"]

[Text] With the New York agreements, our fatherland has completed a phase of revolutionary war, achieving a clear national victory, and has begun a new phase of political struggle to make the agreements a reality through their total implementation.

The unstoppable avalanche of peace and democracy that lies ahead is the result of 21 years of armed struggle and countless feats of popular street riots, strikes, and political achievements.

The social, human, and material cost the people had to pay to attain peace is immense and priceless. That is why nothing or no one will make us lose what we have already conquered and what we will conquer day by day.

Undoubtedly, the results of the negotiations and the enthusiastic reaction from our people and the international community have alarmed groups opposed to change in El Salvador, groups that currently enjoy impunity, groups that maintain their privileges at the expense of the people's misery.

President Cristiani's maneuvers to conceal the significance of the peace agreements only seek to prevent internal chaos within his party and the Armed Forces. We understand that, after the commitments made in New York, Cristiani and his negotiating team will face serious conflicts with ultra rightist groups, and that their lives may even be threatened. This has occurred before in internal disputes, as in the case of [words indistinct].

We know that Cristiani does not trust his own shadow. However, it is gravely irresponsible toward the nation to start manipulating the agreements reached during the negotiations, as he has done with the agreements related to the reduction of the Armed Forces and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's participation in the National Civilian Police and in legal political life. We recognize that Cristiani had the courage to sign the peace agreements, and we hope he will continue showing the same courage in implementing them, so that the National Congress can build a new fatherland.

Ultrarightists Called 'Big Losers' in Agreement

PA0701232992 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The concluding round of negotiations to finalize the details of the peace agreement that is to be signed on 16 January began one day late. Despite the time limit and the importance of the meeting, the government delegation inexplicably arrived late. That could be a sign that the government is taking its time in view of the reaction of the violent ultraright.

Now when we have finally reached the point of no return for everyone concerned, the ultraright is desperate because it realizes that 16 January marks the day of its funeral and that the New York Agreement is its death certificate.

The right's desperate efforts became evident in the recent outbreak of terror, demonstrated in attacks on the media, arrests, disappearances, and the discovery of mutilated bodies and reports of other violence.

The ultrarightists in El Salvador have always used terrorist violence to swim against the current of history without knowing that, because of their stubbornness, they are about to drown.

Cristiani was right in saying that the winners in the negotiations are the Salvadoran people. However, there are big losers—the ultrarightists. Regardless of the efforts to make those anachronistic individuals change their minds, it seems that they will never understand. However, it is urgent that the nation to set them straight once and for all. Those individuals are using false organizations to commit abuses, but we all know their faces very well. They are faces that are afraid to come out of the dark, afraid of the light of life which is about to shine in our country again. Their brutal force will do them no good. The more crimes they commit, the more they will have to pay for them and very soon.

President Cristiani and those who are backing him in the negotiations should not feel intimidated by the bullying of these gangsters. Cristiani and his group should act responsibly, especially now, when, if we Salvadorans cannot resolve their own problems, others will do it for us, as will be the case when the United Nations decides what will be done if we do not reach an agreement prior to 10 January.

Colonel Vargas Comments on New National Police

PA0801015992 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 5 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] To prove that there will be no quotas for anyone in the new National Civilian Police (PNC), Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas [Armed Forces representative on the government's dialogue commission with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN] stated that "the new PNC will be a new institution, with a new organization, new members, new education and training methods, and a new doctrine."

He continued by pointing out that "within this great context, the incorporation of individuals who were not directly involved in the armed conflict will be emphasized." In addition, Col. Vargas said that preference would be given to new members, and that if they fill all the openings, there will be no opportunities for former fighters of either side.

According to Col. Vargas, former FMLN fighters will be allowed to join the PNC once they have regained all their rights as citizens, met the necessary admittance requirements and followed procedures, and completed training at the Public Safety Academy.

To be admitted at the basic level (as agents), Col. Vargas explained that there are certain requirements that must be met. The candidate must be a Salvadoran citizen, be 18 years old, have a ninth grade education, be physically fit, be entitled to all his citizens rights, have no criminal record, and pass a personality profile test.

Admittance to the executive level will be dependent, in addition to the aforementioned requirements, on having completed at least three years' study at the university level. Admittance to higher levels will be dependent on the candidate having obtained a bachelor's degree. Col. Vargas continued by pointing out that, in his opinion, the FMLN leaders have been quite irresponsible in misleading their men with promises that they will not be able to keep anytime in the near future. That could eventually lead to destabilization by those who feel they have been deceived.

Col. Vargas explained that there are regions that have been specifically designated for the FMLN forces to concentrate, and from which the armed forces must fall back. However, the task of delimiting those areas is still pending. Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] will be charged with that undertaking, and for that reason its numbers will be increased.

With respect to the lack of conformity among the current members of the National Police because of its dissolution, Vargas stated that he was not aware of any complaints, as they will either receive severance pay or some other type of compensation. With regard to the Armed Forces, it is logical to have a reduction and restructuring during a time of peace, as its growth "came about as consequence of the war, and they are all clear on that issue."

Finally, Col. Vargas said that society itself will control all those "hotheads and malicious persons who will be relegated by history." The agreements entail not merely verification, but also being honored by all Salvadorans. According to Vargas, "we must all ensure that the agreements are respected. The kidnappings, extortion, and land takeovers are no longer permissible, and if they were unacceptable during the war, they are abominable during a time of peace. If the agreements are not respected, then reconciliation will not be easy."

Guatemala

Serrano Comments Upon Return From U.S. Visit

PA0801013192

[Editorial Report] Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 6 January carries a two-minute report on President Jorge Serrano's statements upon his return from the United States on 5 January. The report quotes Serrano as stating: "The technological gap between developed and underdeveloped nations has caused our nations to lag behind in production, and in technology, while the industrialized nations have reached greater levels of development." The report quotes President Serrano that the industrialized nations have established barriers to protect their markets and discriminately purchase only certain Guatemalan products. Serrano in the report states that his government's policy over the past year has been to strive for a more open market so that new horizons are opened for the nation's development. During his visit to the United States, Serrano said he maintained that they are not looking for direct aid, because that provides only a temporary solution to immediate problems. Serrano, in his statements, claims that Guatemala wants frontiers to be opened to facilitate competition and production. According to the report, Serrano stated that this in turn would allow fulfillment of the needs of the people, in the health, education, and housing sectors.

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish on 6 January on page 3 carries a 450-word article on President Jorge Serrano's statements to the press upon his return from the United States. The article quotes Serrano: "If the new superpowers do not show humanitarian consciousness, a North-South confrontation could emerge, that is, between rich and poor nations." According to the article, Serrano said that would not reach the levels of the East-West confrontation, but in any event it would not be advantageous for Guatemala. Serrano in his statements mentioned that as a result of the USSR's disintegration, the superpowers that have emerged will participate in the economics and politics of the new world order, noting that they will definitely have a bearing on all nations.

PRENSA LIBRE on 6 January on page 8 carries a 400-word article on President Serrano's statements to the press upon his return from the United States concerning the Salvadoran peace agreement. According to

the report, the journalists questioned Serrano on the Salvadoran peace agreement and on the possibility of a cease-fire being signed this year between the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). Serrano told the reporters that he was not completely familiar with the document signed between the Salvadoran Government and the rebels, therefore he would refrain from making any comments. The article quotes Serrano as saying: "I will call President Cristiani shortly to learn, first hand, the scope of this important document." Concerning the possibility of a comprehensive peace agreement with the URNG this year, Serrano stated that it all depends on the interest and will of the rebels, who for many years have attacked democracy. To conclude, the article quotes Serrano as stating that he wants the local and international community to be very aware that if a peace agreement is not reached, it would be the rebels responsibility, since it would mean that they prefer to continue as outlaws, an entirely unjustifiable situation.

Plans To Heighten Border Surveillance Announced

PA0701162992 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 6 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] The National Defense General St. T has decided to heighten military surveillance along the border with El Salvador, given the possibility that once the war ends in that neighboring country, weapon shipments may begin to the Guatemalan guerrillas. The announcement was made by Defense Minister General Jose Garcia Samayoa, who added that the General Staff has plans to confront this possibility and ensure the safety and integrity of our national territory.

We cannot assume, but we cannot ignore, the possibility that once the war in El Salvador has ended, shipments of weapons—and there are many weapons in that neighboring country—may begin to the Guatemalan guerrilla. In light of this, it is necessary to heighten surveillance and ensure the safety of our border. This is why preventive measures will be taken, the defense minister added.

Peasants Ask For Continuation of Peace Talks

PA0801024992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Over 1,000 peasants from several Quiche Department towns have asked for the continuation of the talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG]. They also urged both sides to allow them to participate in the talks. The proposal is included in a letter signed by over 1,000 residents from Cucabaj, Chicabracan, La Puerta, Pacaman, Jucaman and addressed to President Jorge Serrano Elias and National Defense Minister General Jose Garcia, the URNG commanders, and Ombudsman Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

Those who signed the letter asked that the agreements reached in the dialogue be drafted based on the problems that the residents of communities in the interior of the country, mainly the strife-torn areas, are facing. Quiche peasants demanded that the talks be conducted in an earnest and responsible manner to reach the goals of justice and peace yearned for by the Guatemalan people. They added that the agreements should not remain simply words or written documents, but be effectively implemented for the benefit of all the people.

One of the document's paragraphs stated: The government and the guerrillas should not reach agreements by themselves, because we are the ones ultimately affected by this serious problem.

The letter ended with the following: We are entitled to live. We want to live in peace.

Poll Shows Serrano's Popularity Sliding

PA0701200092 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 5 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] President Jorge Serrano's popularity has slid 17 points, although Guatemalans still regard him positively, according to a recent poll conducted by the Multi-Speciality Development Counselors (CID), affiliated with the Gallup International Research Institute.

Of the 1320 persons interviewed throughout Guatemala during the first nine days of January, 38 percent were positive about President Serrano's government, while 13 percent were negative, resulting in a 25 percent approval rate.

In the fourth poll conducted by CID in July, 42 percent approved of President Serrano's government. The loss in popularity can be attributed—after the euphoria of the new administration's first months has passed—to the restrictions that are starting to be felt as a result of the government's implementing its economic program.

In general, Guatemalans feel their nation has always had problems and that currently there is no particular crisis. This same opinion was expressed in July in the last poll. But among those who consider that there is a crisis, 53 percent blame former President Vinicio Cerezo's government, while 14 percent blame President Serrano's government.

Also, 33 percent of those polled who believe there is an continuing crisis blamed both administrations.

There is a favorable opinion regarding President Serrano's administration on the human rights issue. However, on this topic the polls also show a slide in public opinion. In July, 48 percent of Guatemalans thought favorably of the administration on human rights issues, while in December only 32 percent did.

The majority of Guatemalans do not agree with President Serrano's decision to recognize Belize as an independent nation. Only 33 percent agree with the recognition, while 55 percent do not or scarcely agree with Serrano's decision about it.

Nicaragua

Government Spokesman on Salvadoran Agreements

PA0801011492 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Interview with Government Spokesman Danilo Lacayo by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lacayo] Peace in El Salvador is the result of the Esquipulas Agreement, former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace plan, the presidential summits, and the specific efforts of the Nicaraguan president. We must recall that when the president assumed power on 25 April 1990, one of her main goals was to attain peace in El Salvador. Both Salvadoran Government officials and FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] representatives have met with President Chamorro, who has taken a personal interest in their problems. Unless my memory fails me, when receiving the keys to the city during the presidential summit in El Salvador she said that because peace was attained in Nicaragua, she would do everything she could to attain peace and reconciliation in El Salvador.

That shows that dialogue, which has been the government's instrument in Nicaragua and which must be the instrument used by all Central American governments to solve their problems, is the only solution for the Latin American people. We know that thousands of hours were invested at the United Nations to attain peace; those thousands of hours prevented the death of thousands of Salvadorans. It is better to spend time holding talks, although some people think it is worthless. However, when we add the hours that supposedly were lost, we can say that a number of lives were saved. An average of 10 people died in El Salvador every day during the past months, according to recent surveys. The dialogue prevented the death of approximately 1,000 people. Therefore, many people and children were saved, and there were no more battle wounded, orphans, and widows; peace was finally attained.

As President Cristiani said on 5 January during an interview, the international community will supervise peace. Nicaragua will play a very active role in supervising peace, because President Chamorro is not only committed to peace in Nicaragua, but to peace in Central America. In each presidential summit, President Chamorro was very worried about peace in El Salvador.

Obviously, one of the main topics to be discussed at the presidential summit to be held here in June, when the Nicaraguan president will host the 13th summit of Central American presidents, will be the outcome of the Salvadoran peace process. That process now will include disarmament; integration of the guerrillas into civilian life; and a reduction of the number of soldiers in the Salvadoran Army, which now has 50,000 men and must be reduced by 50 percent, in other words to 25,000 soldiers. This will be one of the main points on the agenda of the Central American presidents here in Managua.

The main thing is that Central America will end this century in a development phase. We are eight years away from the year 2000. This year we will commemorate 500 years of the discovery of the American Continent and we will begin a new phase in the history of Central America, not only of Nicaragua. For example, you may recall that during the past 12 years El Salvador and Nicaragua have been known as countries of war and death. If you ask anyone from another continent about Nicaragua and El Salvador, they will mention the contras or the FMLN. That is what we were known for: war, death, desolation, orphans, poverty. We believe that by the year 2000, Central America—particularly Nicaragua and El Salvador—will be countries that attained peace and reconciliation. They will be known as countries that finally decided to end the war through dialogue.

That is what our president has been promoting every day in our country: dialogue. The extremists of the left and right have criticized Mrs. Chamorro's government because it uses dialogue to solve problems. I believe that once again it has been confirmed that President Chamorro's policy is correct. Dialogue has produced results in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Here in Nicaragua our government will continue to solve our national problems through dialogue, will continue to promote tolerance and moderate positions, and will seek solutions through a broad national consensus to strengthen concerted efforts.

In sum, we will continue using all civilized methods to help prevent death in our country. With the amnesty granted at the end of the year, President Chamorro showed that she is in favor of peace, reconciliation, and dialogue. We hope that the National Opposition Union parties and the Sandinist National Liberation Front will participate this month in the national dialogue without conditions, as President Chamorro has requested. We hope they will put national interests before personal interests. Peace in El Salvador is good for Nicaragua, because it shows us that dialogue is the only solution to the problems in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] The government has called 1992 the year of recovery, stabilization, and economic progress. How important is that for Nicaragua? What are the repercussions of the pacification of Central America? Will Nicaragua have time to consolidate its economic recovery?

[Lacayo] Former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias used to say that if Nicaragua is at war, Costa Ricans are in a bad situation, because Nicaragua's war has an impact on Costa Ricans as refugees and poor people go over into their territory. The same thing applied to Nicaragua. The war in El Salvador brought refugees into Nicaragua and a great deal of unrest along the border. It also hampered the development of Central American integration.

Now that peace has come to Central America and Nicaragua has begun its economic recovery, that development will help us because the flow of trade from El Salvador to Nicaragua and vice versa will increase in the years ahead. Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, and Hondurans will have access to different products and that will help bring prices down in Central America. The products that were scarce in Nicaragua because of the war will once again become plentiful.

You may remember that canned juices made in El Salvador were sold here at very low prices. That product was readily available, even for peasants. With peace in El Salvador we hope that the companies that were there before will return to that country to make that sort of product. Besides that, Central Americans will move about more freely. You may recall that one of the points agreed upon by the Central American presidents was to have a single passport for all Central Americans and avoid problems at the border.

Now that there is peace in El Salvador and now that the war is over, that situation will be much easier. Why? Because there will no longer be concerns about the guerrillas slipping in or forging documents. I think the path toward Central American integration—an integration involving social, and political, and economic, educational, cultural elements—will be faster and more efficient. I recalled that 20 years ago one could travel to Honduras and Costa Rica with a permit issued at the border. All you had to do to get into Costa Rica was go to the border post and get a permit. It was the same thing going into Honduras. Now the procedure entails sending a telegram to Honduras or Costa Rica to get a permit. Traveling in Central America has become very complex.

We believe we will return to the times when people and merchants traveled all over Central America. That would also help prevent contraband. With the war over, the government will devote its attention to protecting the borders from smugglers instead of trying to keep the war out. Smuggling and cattle thefts will drop as a result. That situation benefits Central America as a whole, not just El Salvador.

Police Investigating Recontra Leader's Death

PA0701225992 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Text] Matagalpa—The National Police in Matagalpa are investigating the circumstances under which contra Reynerio Gutierrez Caldera, 33, alias Mediano, was killed. Sergio Gomez, police chief in the area, reported, that Gutierrez had acted as head of the recontra task force in the Waslala area.

Preliminary reports indicate that Gutierrez was killed by a 12-mm rifle shot during the afternoon of 3 January, while his wife, Martha Loza Paez, was talking to a man named Efrain Zeledon Zeledon on a farm located in the hamlet of El Achiote, approximately 18 km from Waslala.

According to Police Chief Gomez, the police are questioning Gutierrez' wife and verifying other details to determine if the incident was a suicide or homicide.

According to the official report, Gutierrez was taken to the Cesar Amador Molina Regional Hospital to receive medical attention, but he died a few hours later. Other versions indicate that Gutierrez, a native of Guanuca, Matagalpa, had been drinking for several days. That is being investigated by the Waslala police.

Unofficial reports indicate that a group of 60 men led by the recontra known as El Chaparro had taken over Mulukuku—a hamlet with a population of 2,000—four days earlier.

That hamlet, located between the 6th and the Atlantic regions, was taken over four times last year by recontras, resulting in two persons killed and several others wounded, and the looting of the main country store located there.

At least 10 men—who are allegedly among the forces of El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores]—arrived at the home of Government Ministry Delegate Jose Augusto Lopez, requesting personal guarantees, "because they do not want to continue with their leader," Lopez himself confirmed.

Nevertheless, Lopez said: "The government has not given me any instructions with regard to these cases, therefore, I have not given them a response and I sent them to Porfirio Molina, who acts as a mediator in returning them to their previous occupations."

Jose Agusto Lopez warned that the situation in Jinotega remains tense because El Indomable's forces continue to demand gasoline and diesel fuel from producers, transport workers, and travelers.

In Jinotega there is close coordination between the police and the Army to resist a possible takeover of the city by El Indomable's armed groups if the government does not show signs of finding a solution to the conflict after 13 January.

Panama

Accounts of U.S. Soldiers Shooting Incident Vary

PA0701163992 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] There are contradictory versions regarding the 5 January incident between Americans and Panamanian policemen, who left one civilian suffering from a gunshot wound. National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez said that an investigation has been ordered to clarify matters.

A U.S. Southern Command communique states that the U.S. soldiers were traveling by car through El Chorrillo neighborhood setting off firecrackers. A confused

policeman thought he was being attacked and fired at the vehicle. The bullet did not strike either the car or its occupants, but wounded a bystander.

The report by Panamanian police who arrived on the scene, however, indicates that some citizens in a Suzuki automobile fired at a patrol car and the policemen returned the fire not knowing that the Suzuki occupants were Americans. According to the report, a man named Reynaldo Rodriguez was injured from a shot fired from the Suzuki. Southern Command authorities later located and detained the vehicle at Howard Air Force Base.

Oswaldo Fernandez disclosed that due to the two contradictory versions, Southern Command authorities and Panamanian authorities will begin an investigation to determine the truth. The police chief explained that the injured man issued statements to the Judicial Technical Police, but they have not yet been disclosed. Ballistics tests are also being conducted to determine which gun fired the shot.

Fernandez showed concern over the incident because over the past few months, Panamanian police have been attacked near Curundu, Calidonia, and San Miguelito. [sentence as published]

In 1991, a U.S. soldier lost his life when a Panamanian policeman shot him when the soldier and his companions were traveling down a one-way street with their car lights off. The incident took place in Santa Ana, near El Rancho beer garden.

Cruz on Rubino's Letter to Endara on Testimony

PA0701205792 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1212 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report by Celso Contreras, Jr.]

[Text] Manuel Antonio Noriega's U.S. lawyer, Frank Rubino, has asked the Panamanian Government to allow people linked to the former general to testify in court during Noriega's trial in Miami. [Attorney General Rogelio] Cruz believes that the procedure is completely wrong and violates international law and practice.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] [Words indistinct] in a letter to the president of the Republic is a completely wrong action and violates international law and practice.

[Contreras] Would you regard such a request as proper if it were made through the Attorney General's Office?

[Cruz] It is important for Panama to clearly show that Noriega has been given the benefit of a fair trial. If, according to the judge handling the case, the testimony under discussion is necessary, Panama should make every effort to ensure that Noriega's defense counsel has access to that testimony.

[Contreras] Do you think that Rubino's action, addressing a letter to our government, is offensive to our country in that he represents one of the parties involved?

[Cruz] I think it is an unusual procedure and that its use might indicate that Rubino is interested, not in the testimony, but in a refusal, so he can argue that his client's case has not been handled fairly. As a lawyer, he should know that no foreign lawyer should address a letter to the president of another country to secure the testimony of persons detained in that country. Suppose I address President Bush telling him I need the testimony of persons detained in the United States. I am sure President Bush would not even reply to my letter, because the procedure is entirely irregular.

[Contreras] Would the provisions of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] apply to an exchange of [words indistinct]?

[Cruz] MLAT should be the applicable legal instrument in this case. Unfortunately, it is not yet in force. Consequently, it would be necessary to resort to reciprocity. In other words, honor the request made by the judge handling the case in exchange for U.S. judges doing something similar in the future if a similar request is made by a Panamanian lawyer.

[Contreras] Are you planning to initiate an inquiry on the incident between some Americans and Panamanians in Calidonia in Panama City?

[Cruz] I am sure that both the National Police and the Technical Judicial Police are conducting preliminary investigations, which will eventually be sent to the Public Ministry. [end recording]

Attorney General on Drug Traffickers' Extradition

PA0701142292 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Jan 92 pp 1a, 31

[Report by Justino Gonzalez Jr.]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has stated that he agrees with the extradition of foreign drug traffickers captured on Panamanian territory, inasmuch as it would prevent their escape from prisons by bribing guards and police officers.

The statements Cruz made were in response to questions from journalists on the recent escape of two Colombians from the Women's Rehabilitation Center. The women allegedly escaped with the complicity of prison guards.

Cruz stressed, however, that this alternative, which is aimed at avoiding more escapes, will depend on eventual negotiations the government would conduct through the Foreign Relations Ministry.

Cruz pointed out that the Civil Code must be revised, because it considers escapes from prison through violent means to be a crime. Cruz believes this makes it easier for prisoners to turn to bribery.

According to Cruz, the size of the drug traffickers' resources and the difficulty in preventing guards from succumbing to bribery because of the poor salaries they receive from the state for doing their job are important aspects authorities should analyze when they try to solve this problem.

During this past year several foreigners who have been accused of illicit drug trafficking escaped from the country's penitentiaries by bribing prison guards. In some cases, the prison guards were identified and dismissed from their jobs.

It must be pointed out that authorities closed the prison on Naos Island after deciding the prison did not meet the necessary security requirements.

With regard to changes in the office of the attorney general, Cruz reported that the changes were not exactly a result of the corruption cases, but instead were renovations.

Cruz preferred not to make any comment on the recent dismissals in the assistant district attorney's office, arguing that comments should be made by the prosecutors who ordered the dismissals.

Argentina

President Menem Reiterates Claim Over Falklands

PY0701200492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1642 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said on 7 January that Argentina "will not forget the issue of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands," stressing that the recent exchange of opinions in Buenos Aires with Leo Faulkner, a British diplomat, over the issue was "necessary."

"Such an exchange is necessary to remind our British friends that Argentina will not forget the issue of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands," Menem said.

Menem held a news conference at the Metropolitan Airport shortly before flying to Cordoba. The president said he was "referring to an opinion of the British Embassy" issued yesterday by Faulkner. Faulkner is head of the British mission during the absence of Ambassador Humphrey Maud.

Asked if the visit of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the islands on 10 July would negatively affect bilateral relations, Menem said the former prime minister is no longer a British Government official.

"Mrs. Thatcher is just another citizen. She has the right" to travel, Menem said, adding that her visit "will not change the status of the conflict in any way."

The Argentine Government, through Menem and Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, recently mentioned, among other possibilities, international arbitration to resolve the conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the islands.

The British answer reiterated the need to maintain the "umbrella of protection" that the two countries established in Madrid in February 1990, which paved the way for the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Government Supports UN Resolution 726

PY0801021692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0135 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government reiterated today that it hopes "a just and lasting peace will be established" in the Middle East and that "it supports Resolution 726" of the UN Security Council.

Resolution 726, which was unanimously approved yesterday, condemns Israel for the recent expulsion of 12 Palestinians from the occupied territories and asks the Jewish state to abstain from implementing similar measures in the future.

The Foreign Ministry issued an official communique this afternoon in which the government states "its concern over attitudes that might hinder the development of the present peace talks."

The Argentine Government calls on all parties involved "to abstain from implementing measures not in accordance with the letter or spirit of the 1949 Geneva agreement that could alter the process that began at the Madrid peace conference" and continues in Washington.

Menem Confirms Financial Aid for Flood Victims

PY0801000292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Cordoba, 7 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has confirmed that "Cordoba will initially receive $1 million in aid" to reconstruct and [word indistinct] in the regions affected by rainstorms, particularly the San Carlos Minas settlement where 30 people died and some 30 others are still missing.

The president made the comments upon arriving at the Cordoba International Airport at about 1200. In the company of Julio Cesar Araoz, health and social action minister, he was welcomed by Governor Eduardo Angeloz, who will accompany the federal officials in a tour of the region affected by the serious floods.

President Menem said: "The nation is sending its assistance in trucks loaded with various staples, medicine, etc. As initial financial help, $1 million have been given to the Cordoba Government. The total amount of aid will depend on studies yet to be conducted. It has also been ordered that 100 houses will be built through the Fonavi [National Housing Fund] emergency fund to replace those destroyed by the storms in San Carlos Minas."

"Initially, these are the measures being implemented by the federal government. They do not affect the measures being implemented by the provincial government, which is doing its best to improve the situation of the local residents. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything about those who have died or are missing. This is the worst result of the floods," Menem added.

Asked about the number of victims and the amount of losses, Menem said: "The definite number is still unkonwn. I have been told that 19 to 22 people have died and 40 to 50 are missing. Regarding losses," he added, "after studying the data, we will figure them out with Governor Angeloz."

Air Force To Control Country's Airports

PY0501215092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Jan 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The Air Force—after seven years—once again took charge yesterday of the overall control and security in all 21 Argentine airports. The decision to hand the task back to the Air Force was made by the

Defence Ministry after an agreement signed in 1985 with Border Guard authorities, that left the Border Guards in charge of airport controls, expired last Thursday [2 January].

From now on security in all the country's main airports will be controlled by the National Aeronautical Police (PAN) a special Air Force security corps. The official resolution released as the PAN personnel arrived at the Ezeiza and Metropolitan airports triggered off a crisis in the Border Guard command.

Border Guard Commander-General Adalino Adolgo Barberis requested to be retired from the force "in protest and disconformity," with the sudden Defence Ministry decision. Barberis described Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez' resolution as "insulting.

"I say that this attitude of Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez professionally hurts the feeling of the Border Guards," reads the communique officially released by Border Guard authorities to report Barberis' resignation.

Barberis, who signed the communique, added that the force he headed had invested a large part of its budget in training some 1,200 airport security officers and formally protested the 24-hour deadline given to his men to abandon their posts in all airports.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez totally rejected Barberis' accusations and called for a Border Guard "command that agrees with the new changes we want to make."

The minister announced yesterday that both the Border and Coast Guard forces would "in the next few days" return under Interior Ministry jurisdiction which Gonzalez described as the forces' "historic places." Gonzalez added that the border and Coast Guards would be "restructured according to the new Security Law."

Gonzalez said that with the new law the Coast Guard would be "in charge of security in ports, internal waterways and the 12-mile Argentine territorial water zone," while the Navy will control the 12 to 200-mile limit. Government sources reported that over 50 percent of Coast Guard officers and equipment would be handed over to the Navy.

When asked about the new duties the Border Guard would undertake, the minister said: "The Border Guard is a force that can go to the rescue of a province when a police rebellion breaks out or if the governor requests such intervention because there is social unrest in his region."

"In addition, they will continue to fight against drug trafficking and the personnel trained for airport security duties will be posted in strategic frontier areas," said Gonzalez.

The minister admitted that the reforms could bring about some internal conflicts because certain sectors had "difficulty in adapting" to the new law. However, he considered that the reforms were "necessary."

Ministry sources also reported yesterday that Barberis would be replaced by his former second-in-command Jorge Suerz and Prefect-General Jorge Maggi would replace Prefect-General Washington Zibell as head of the Coast Guard.

The current head of the Third Border Guard Region with headquarters in Cordoba, General Timar Musimessi, will be promoted to deputy commander of the force, according to Defence Ministry sources, who added that Border Guard Commanders Juan Zorzeron, Carlos Vidal and Oscar Di Renzo would apparently also be retiring.

The sources added that Prefect-General Arnaldo Gentilnuovo will be Coast Guard second-in-command replacing Prefect-General Osvaldo Salonone. Other three high-ranking officers would also be retiring from the Coast Guard.

Former Coast Guard Leaders Dispute Restructuring

PY0501230292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 92 p 17

[Text] (DYN)—The outgoing high command of the Argentine Coast Guard and some 100 retired chiefs of the institution yesterday pledged to "carry out all necessary political and legal steps" to avoid the disintegration of the centenary security force.

The statement came in the wake of the restructuring announcements made on Friday [3 January] by Defence Minister Erman Gonzalez. The outgoing Coast Guard leadership also called on the ranks to "keep calm by unconditionally heeding the orders of the new high command, as the only way of avoiding a further worsening of the critical situation of the Coast Guard."

Gonzalez on Friday confirmed the replacement of almost all leaders of the Coast Guard and announced the future transfer of most of the force's divisions to the jurisdiction of the Navy. The rest, between 30 and 35 percent of the 12,000-strong Coast Guard, will be placed under Interior Ministry control.

The old leadership and about 100 former high-ranking Coast Guard members were reportedly summoned by a group of outgoing chiefs to an imminent meeting in the suburb of Vicente Lopez to discuss the restructuring of the force.

The former senior officers were informed that Gonzalez's announcements had only been made public by the press as the force was not formally notified of the overhaul in store for its members.

They also pointed out that as opposed to the Border Guard, which will no longer be in charge of airport security but will keep its normal role of frontier patrolling, the Coast Guard will in the future be prevented

from acting as a police force and carrying out surveillance and rescue operations, the role of similar forces worldwide.

Brazil

Collor Commentary Advocates Social-Liberalism

PY0701193492 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jan 92 Section 1 p 3

[Commentary by President Fernando Collor: "An Agenda for Consensus: A Social-Liberal Proposal"]

[Text] Why an agenda for consensus? Because the time has come for giving institutional status to reforms, for giving an improved definition to the methods and instruments that will allow us to attain the social justice and modernization targets that all Brazilians cherish.

The major objectives, which are the true foundations of the agenda, are clear and enjoy a broad consensus. The objectives are to control inflation, put public finances on a healthy standing, restructure and redesign the state, modernize the economy, achieve sustained development, promote social justice, preserve the environment, preserve cultural tradition, make justice efficient and available to all, and guarantee public security.

Pluralism is a political premise of a democratic state. Parties, unions, social organizations, and the press work along with the government branches. They are vital instruments of democracy, and at each historical moment they should, through permanent debate, give shape to the collective will of the nation.

Consequently, as a political imperative, the reforms call for a commitment by society, from people of all strata, by the majority, who are fully aware of the need for change. It is essential to mobilize society to justify the Brazilian modernization project and to once again legitimize its radical and comprehensive nature. This program covers not only relations between society and the state, but also the gradual improvement of the productive structure.

To that end, it is necessary to back political decisions with the forces of the nation, turning reforms into a social creed, into a doctrine that is freely adopted and enriched by society and, particularly, by the young.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to coordinate reforms into a platform: a clear and conscientious political philosophy.

We found that philosophy in the social-liberal idea. That formula means the willingness to create among us a truly modern liberal system with popular roots and nationwide support. It obviously means a strong opposition to statism, collectivism, interventionism, and to the discredited and obsolete forms of protectionism, paternalism, and populism that burden society and hinder modernization. Yet it also means something that is essentially different from the conservative, oligarchic position that was so strong and still prevails as liberalism; a position that has become obsolete from the viewpoint of the national and social factors giving shape to political life and historical change.

Social liberalism: An ideology that strongly supports freedom does not exclude—to the contrary, it entails—the search for justice through a permanent effort to effectively give everyone equal opportunities and expand those segments of society who will exercise their human rights. Social-liberalism is liberalism for the promotion of society, not for promoting a class. It simultaneously promotes equality and freedom, democratizing the right to diversity, which is the foundation of freedom.

Why is it urgent to adopt social-liberalism in Brazil, in today's Latin America?

Because all other formulas have failed.

Conservative liberalism has not met the demands for development and modernization posed by changing societies. Authoritarian modernization processes gave rise to major industrialization, but failed to give the masses the most important fruit of progress: a decent standard of living. Authoritarian regimes restricted freedom without giving the people access to the consumption levels of developed industrialized society. Demagogic recipes were used for cosmetic solutions, without tackling the roots of the problem and the people's needs.

In one word, even the solutions that seemed to meet the challenge of combining fredom and justice in industrialized societies have faced restrictions and are undergoing a necessary renewal. The era of individualism, advanced technology, worldwide economic structures, free salary bargaining, and neocapitalism calls for creative proposals to cope with social situations that were unknown until a few years ago.

A quick review of Brazilian history shows that the experience of the past is leading us toward trying modern liberalism, harmonizing freedom, efficiency, and equality. That is social-liberalism.

The time for definitively eliminating the shameful combination of privilege and hardship, which unfortunately still marks our social structure, has arrived.

Social-liberalism advocates nonconformity with misery, disease, ignorance, and need. It is against the suggestion that economic growth will automatically resolve such problems. Social-liberalism does not accept the fact that Brazil, while having a diversified industry that is competitive in some fields, should have a social profile reflecting great injustice.

Social-liberalism demands democratization of freedom. It is an alliance between economic liberalism, which is the best method found for creating wealth thus far, and social needs. This alliance is the great political chance for a centrist-leftist alliance that advocates modernization.

It is a dynamic center halfway between exclusionary rightist thinking and archaic, centralizing, and interventionist leftist thinking.

To adopt a liberal position in current Brazilian society implies a revolution, a peaceful and democratic revolution conducted by a legally constituted government, a government stemming from the greatest expression of the popular will the country has ever seen. But this surely implies a profound disruption of an entire set of habits and attitudes that make up the old Brazil.

What concrete steps does the social-liberal revolution intend to adopt? Here, naturally, the crucial point is the role of the state.

What reform of the state? In a word, the idea is to modify qualitatively its relations with society, expanding its performance in the social field and reducing its direct intervention in productive activities, as well as the absurd volume of regulations that curtail free initiative.

The supporters of statism think that a liberalizing state reform will sacrifice even more the poorest segments of society by depriving them of government assistance. That argument, however, is based on a sophism. As broadly demonstrated by several studies, such as that by the World Bank, the true beneficiaries of social expenditures in Latin America, including in Brazil, in general, are not the poorest.

It is true that the state's major expenditure has been the cost of its own bureaucratic apparatus and not activities oriented toward achieving a specific goal expressed through effective social services. That is what the Brazilian people have regretted, painfully aware of the failure of our social security system.

That distortion, however, cannot cause surprise when we think of the social formation of Latin American countries. In the past, in our agro-extractive economies, which generally grow slowly, the enterprise used to become atrophied and commerce itself was in foreign hands while the state service, consequently, was the classical fate of the sons of oligarchic groups. From the youngest sons to the poorest families, a large number of people were looking for public employment as the only path to sustenance and prestige.

Thus, instead of eliminating privileges, our bourgeoisie was trying to conquer them. And what else but privilege was, within that social model, public employment, and later, the oligopolistic enterprise, that prolonged mercantilism against the market, the concession against competition, and the monopolistic profit against the capitalist risk?

That mentality, creating the political appointments phenomenon, calls for a type of exercise of public employment of a private nature. Employment is conceived as some sort of lifetime pension, more like a favor by some for some, and not as a function based on merit at the service of the community.

Good employees dedicated effectively to serving the people are stigmatized, causing discouragement and thus weakening the best qualified.

That historic inheritance has left us with the taste of a shelter-state [estado-ninho]: the state not as an instrument of the collectivity involved in the noble effort of promoting the common good, but as a comfortable shelter of private interests. We now face the challenge of building an authentic social market economy.

I began this article with a question: Why an agenda for a consensus? I want to end with another question: Why social-liberalism at this moment?

We are at a crucial stage for the implementation of reforms that will lead us to modern times. In my speech at the ministerial meeting on 23 December 1991, I introduced the objectives about which Brazilian society already has expressed a clear consensus. It is the first opportunity for an all-embracing and truly mobilizing debate. The social-liberal proposal is the best doctrinal key to go on with this debate to establish the agenda for a consensus. If we adopt it, we will be overcoming the physiological vices and giving birth to a new essential stage of the project for the modernization of Brazil, which is the renewal of a way of thinking and politics.

I intend to participate in this debate in several ways; one of those ways will be related to the systematic unfolding of the master plans of the social-liberal thinking. Therefore, I would choose some meditation such as the role of the states; political reform and human rights; the educational revolution; a new economic model; the recovery of the social debt; and others that will be the subject of several subsequent articles, always within the social-liberal point of view, which we could summarize in Keynes' illustrious words: "Mankind's political problem is to combine three things: economic effectiveness, social justice, and individual freedom."

Government To Increase Rio Pensions 147 Percent

PY0701180292 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The government has awarded Rio de Janeiro pensioners an increase of 147 percent. Today the government will also appeal the court ruling authorizing the increase for Sao Paulo pensioners.

Shortly after learning that the Supreme Federal Court had disqualified itself from passing judgment on the Rio de Janeiro Federal Court's decision, President Fernando Collor summoned Consultant General Celio Silva and Labor Minister Rogelio Magri to his office to ask if the government could appeal the ruling or if it must begin to pay Rio de Janeiro pensioners as of today.

Celio Silva told President Collor that, at least for the time being, the government cannot appeal the ruling because it is a temporary decision of the Rio de Janeiro 7th district judge that must be respected. [passage omitted]

Collor Comments on Increase

PY0801000892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] In a message to the nation on national radio and television network, President Fernando Collor has summoned Congress to an extraordinary session to discuss a draft bill on the welfare system and pensioners.

[Begin Collor recording] The extraordinary summons of the national Congress and the draft bill I am sending to it are meant, on the one hand, to face a concrete and urgent problem and, on the other hand, to begin a broad discussion on the necessary structural balance between the income and expenses of the welfare system. [end recording]

President Collor used a chart to explain that the welfare expenses would increase by 11 trillion cruzeiros if the 147 percent readjustment approved by the court were paid to the pensioners.

[Begin Collor recording] My government has struggled to maintain the necessary balance between the income and expenses of the welfare system. Here you may see what would happen if the 147-percent readjustment approved by the court were paid to all Brazilian pensioners: It would result in a brutal increase in expenses for which there are no budgeted or authorized funds. [end recording]

The government has just made public the draft bill it has sent to Congress to increase the funds of the welfare system. The government has proposed collecting an additional 3-percent contribution from the workers' salaries and 7 percent from the pensioners' benefits. This contribution should remain in effect until the welfare system's accounts are balanced. The government also proposed an increase in the workers' monthly contributions to the welfare system from the current 8, 9, and 10 percent to 11, 12, and 13 percent, according to the salary category. The businesses or companies' contributions on the payrolls should increase from 20 to 21.5 percent. The government wants the draft bill to be approved before 31 January.

Dollar Contracts Authorized on Futures Market

PY0801121692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The Central Bank has authorized the futures market to negotiate farm product contracts in U.S. dollars. A longstanding demand of brokers, this resolution will open new possibilities for attracting foreign capital to market operations. Futures market President (Manuel Pirez Dacosta) has said that the authorization will promote farm product transactions.

Chile

Carabineros Deactivate Bomb in Downtown Santiago

PY0701181492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Officers of the Special Police Operations Group [GOPE], Beta Squad, have deactivated an explosive device at 355 Ahumada Promenade in downtown Santiago. An anonymous caller tipped off the police.

GOPE personnel managed to deactivate the bomb, which was camouflaged in a disposable bottle. A large number of people gathered in the area to watch the Carabineros carry out that risky task.

Russian Politicians Visit Humanist Party

PY0601210692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Three Russian politicians are visiting our country to become acquainted with the workings of the Chilean Humanist-Green Party Alliance and to get in touch with government officials. The three Russians said they want to organize a humanist international in Moscow. The group comprises political scientist (Boris Kaval) of humanist intentions; Nikolay Gulbinskiy, Russian vice president public relations chief; and Vlyacheslav Ozirnyy, Free Russia Party president [title as heard].

The three politicians speak Spanish. They said their visit has a practical political purpose aside from getting acquainted with common living conditions in Chile.

The politicians mentioned youth apathy toward participation in political activities and the atomization of social organizations among the problems their country is facing. Regarding Erich Honecker's stay in Russia, the group said he should go to the country of his choice because he is an old man and his situation should be looked upon with humanitarian rather than political eyes.

The Russians will meet Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, visit the Congress in Valparaiso, and meet Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, Chamber of Deputies president.

Comment on Russian Situation

PY0701105892 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] (Boris Kaval), vice president of Moscow's Political Science Institute, has said that Boris Yeltsin must intesify and speed up the process of change in Russia. (Kaval) is a member of a Russian delegation visiting Chile. He met this afternoon with Pia Figueroa, national resources under secretary . (Kaval) said that the visit by this delegation seeks to strengthen links with the Humanist-Green Party Alliance following the congress of humanist parties in Moscow in September this year. (Kaval) was asked about Boris Yeltsin's policies in Russia.

[Begin Kaval recording] Boris Yeltsin's policies seek to broaden the process of transformation and to enhance its economic and cultural development. Yeltsin's long-term policies seek to strengthen Russian independence and consolidate democratic, economic, and social reforms. [end recording]

(Kaval) added that Russia must strengthen its cooperation with the other independent states and continue its policy of disarmament. Regarding the conflict with Ukraine over control of the Black Sea fleet, (Kaval) said that in his opinion the two countries should jointly control the fleet.

Pia Figueroa expressed satisfaction with the meeting. He pointed out that the exchange was fruitful and interesting.

Colombia

Extraditables Issue Communique on Cali Cartel

PA0701141392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0138 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] The Extraditables group issued its second communique now that Pablo Escobar Gaviria has been behind bars for seven months. The group issued its first communique on 3 July 1991 stating that it would demobilize because Pablo Escobar Gaviria had voluntarily surrendered to Colombian justice. The second message was issued on 6 January and accused the Cali Cartel of attacking several of their associates and declares war against them.

Pablo Escobar's armed group denounces the fact that the Cali Cartel continues to send drugs to the United States and that Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, head of the Cali Cartel, told U.S. authorities of the whereabouts of Dandenny Munoz Mosquera, alias La Quica. According to the communique, the Extraditables admitted that La Quica was the head of their organization's paid assassins. Munoz Mosquera was in the United States for a medical examination when he was arrested.

The communique also asserted that the Cali Cartel had revealed the whereabouts of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who was killed by the Colombian Police in December 1989. It added that the Extraditables are going to defend themselves from the Cali Cartel. The communique also asserts that Rodriguez Orejuela protects Ariel Otero, head of the peasant self-defense groups in Middle Magdalena region, who, according to the Extraditables, is preparing to attack the Medellin Cartel.

Escobar Denies Communique

PA0801021392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report by Diego Alonso Sanchez from Medellin]

[Text] Everything indicates that the Extraditables have become divided. While a group of Extraditables issued a communique declaring war on the Cali Cartel, today drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria said that he did not sign such a communique.

In an open letter from the maximum security jail in Envigado where he was imprisoned seven months ago, Pablo Escobar Gaviria today denied that he issued a communique on behalf of the so-called Extraditables this year.

In a short letter released today, Escobar Gaviria denied that he had anything to do with the communique circulated on 6 January in Medellin. In the communique, the Extraditables accused Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela and the Cali Cartel of turning Dandeny Munoz Mosquera, also known as La Quica, over to the DEA; of protecting Ariel Otero, chief of the self-defense groups of the Middle Magdalena region; and of planning attacks against their families.

The so-called leader of the Medellin Cartel explained that those who are imprisoned at the maximum security jail in Envigado maintain their desire for peace, justice, and democracy.

Government Forces Thwart ELN Air Base Attack

PA0801011892 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Dec 92 pp 1a, 8a

[Text] Four guerrillas were killed when their car exploded minutes after they unsuccessfully attempted to attack the Northern Air Command in Malambo (Atlantico Department), which houses fighter planes that protect the Atlantic coast. One soldier lost his life.

In Uraba the Army gunned down three ELN [Army of National Liberation] subversives. In Convencion Municipality, (Norte de Santander Department), the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline was dynamited.

Colonel Carlos Castro Garcia, chief of the 2d Brigade General Staff headquartered in Barranquilla, announced that eight ELN guerrillas entered the air base during the early hours of 29 December but were repelled by sentries, one of whom was killed in the cross fire. The subversives fled when they realized their plan was failing.

Later, as public security forces searched for the guerrillas in the Bellavista neighborhood in Malambo, the vehicle they had used exploded. Four guerrillas died in the explosion and the rest fled.

In a house opposite the location where the vehicle—a black four-door Toyota with Bucaramanga license plates ITD-922—exploded, military patrols found a hideout with ELN war materiel, including 13 bombs (of which six were activated), two FAL rifles, three R-15 rifles, 16 clips for these rifles, 45 electric detonators, an electronic remote control bomb activator, 690 rounds of 7.62-mm

ammunition, 220 rounds of 5.56-mm ammunition, one kg of shrapnel, seven Armed Forces uniforms, a flag, and four knapsacks.

Col. Castro said: "The overall coordinated action of the Army, Air Force, National Police, and the permanent surveillance were factors that served to foil the plan (to attack the base), leading the criminals to mishandle their explosives and subsequently expose the location of the hideout."

The arms and explosives storage site was located at house No. 10B-04 on Third Street South in Bellavista. Neighbors said that over the past few days they saw much activity by men who apparently had arrived from the countryside.

Airman Franklin Castro Pava, 19, from Valledupar, was shot in the chest and died while receiving medical assistance. Castro, together with a companion, held off the subversives until reinforcements arrived.

The attackers managed to hurl a bomb that fell very close to one of the fuel tanks for the FAC [Colombian Air Force] fighter planes, but it did not explode. It was later deactivated.

No FAC equipment was damaged by guerrilla fire, Col. Castro said. The guerrillas entered the area through Malambo's El Concord neighborhood.

Three of the people killed in the car bomb explosion were identified by the 2d Brigade as Joel Romero Avila from Bucaramanga, who was sought on terrorism charges by Sincelejo's First Public Order Court; Rafael Alfonso Quintero, from Pailitas (Cesar Department), for whom there was a pending arrest warrant issued by Tunja's Ninth Criminal Investigation Court on charges of homicide; and Mario Enrique Castro Bonilla from Bogota.

Among the human remains strewn over roof tops, power lines, and the ground, the drivers license issued to Jose Miguel Jaimes was found; he was apparently the owner of the house/hideout.

Despite the vehicle's total destruction, there was no serious damage to neighboring homes or their occupants, who were asleep at the time. The thrust of the explosion was directed upward.

In another incident, the Cesar Department Police reported that the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board dynamited a toll booth operated by the Public Works and Transport Ministry 10 km from Valencia de Jesus Corregimiento along the Velledupar-Barranquilla road.

The subversive activity took place at 0100 on 29 December. Guerrillas gagged the two toll guards, raided the safe taking 150,000 pesos, and blew the building up, National Police said. The guerrillas then escaped to Santa Marta's Sierra Nevada.

Three alleged ELN members were gunned down on 29 December in Uraba by Voltigeros Battalion troops attached to the No. 1 Operation Command.

The clashes took place in La Fortuna, Mutata Municipality, where a camp with food for about 20 days, a Galil rifle, three AK-47 rifles, ammunition clips, ammunition, quartermaster materiel, and a communication radio was dismantled.

Guerrillas again attacked the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Norte de Santander Department, but no crude oil was spilled and fuel pumping was interrupted for only a few hours.

According to authorities, the attack took place at the 453 km marker at La Vega, Convencion Jurisdiction, on the afternoon of 28 December.

The explosion dented the pipeline. The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise immediately dispatched workers to replace the damaged section. Repairs were completed at noon on 29 December.

Guerrillas Reportedly Rearm During Peace Talks

PA0701141192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] The Army has reiterated that the Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGB] does not want peace. According to Army Commander General Manuel Alberto Murillo, guerrilla representatives have contacted international arms dealers even while negotiations are being held in Caracas.

[Begin recording] [Murillo] Drug traffickers are the source of weapons for the subversives. It is evident that a large number of the drug planes that secretly enter the country are bringing weapons for the subversives.

[Reporter] What does the Army general command think about the purchase of weapons by the guerrilla leaders who are negotiating peace in Venezuela?

[Murillo] It might be an action to recover all they have lost in the struggle against the Army. They have had a very bad year. I think 1991 was quite positive for the forces of order, for the Army, the police, and other state security institutions. In 1991 the subversives suffered their worst setbacks in all fields. This includes public opinion, as you well know. It also includes the military terrain where they were unable to stage any action that threatened the Army's stability. [end recording]

Meanwhile, a report from the Armed Forces intelligence services indicates that guerrillas use kidnappings only to fill their petty cash box. Their greatest source of income comes from cocaine. Military intelligence reports indicate that the guerrillas' contacts with arms smugglers took place in Central America, taking advantage of the trip to Costa Rica by the Simon Bolivar Coordinating Board negotiators. There are several arms shipments available in Central America and the Caribbean in view

of the cease-fire agreements in El Salvador. The arms smugglers only accept payment in cocaine or in dollars.

According to military intelligence, the purchase of weapons by subversive groups, in this or any other case, is conducted through drug trafficking middlemen. The weapons are paid for with drugs. The middlemen make the payments in dollars and the guerrillas then receive the weapons, usually in the country in which the deal is made.

Military intelligence has already ascertained the black market price of weapons. Arms smugglers are offering FAL rifles. In Colombia's case, these rifles enter through the border with Venezuela. They are also offering AK-47 rifles, which come from Nicaragua and El Salvador by ship. They enter the country through two main points, the Guajira area and the Uraba region in Antioquia Department. They are also offering G-3 rifles from Germany and Portugal. For example, a G-3 rifle costs 1 million pesos if it arrives in Barranquilla; 800,000 pesos if it arrives in Riohacha; and 500,000 pesos if it is bought in Costa Rica.

Military intelligence also reports that kidnapping and extortion are not the greatest source of income for the subversive groups. The money from those activities is used by the guerrillas to pay for minor expenses. For a long time weapons have been purchased by exchanging them for drug shipments. This makes the deals more attractive to arms smugglers.

The Army is using this information and a report indicating that some CGB members met with black market arms dealers in Central America to back its theory that the Colombian guerrillas are rearming at the same time they are discussing peace.

Former Soldiers, Self-Defense Groups Clash

PA0701160892 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Former soldiers and members of self-defense groups in the Middle Magdalena area continue their internal war. To date, 19 deaths have been reported as a result of clashes in that area.

The police report that an individual who is well known as an active member of paramilitary organizations was killed in La Dorada Port. The individual was carrying two personal identification cards, so it has been difficult to identify him.

In addition to the clashes between militants and former militants of the self-defense groups, these groups are also clashing with hired gunmen and low-ranking members of the Medellin Cartel.

Government Tries To Control Guerrilla Gunrunning

PA0801035792 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by Diego Hernan Cabal in Barranquilla]

[Text] The loose ends of the guerrilla groups' gunrunning activities in our country are being tied up. It was confirmed on 7 January that the Colombian-Venezuelan border is currently being used for this illegal activity. This information was revealed by Colonel Luis Enrique Montenegro, commander of Dijin [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations], who is about to conclude a meeting with district intelligence directors who were summoned to assess the security situation in the country. Montenegro also said that several international gunrunners had been arrested in Venezuela after they had established contacts with the Colombian guerrilla groups' representatives.

The area where the Colombian-Venezuelan border separates Maracaibo and Maicao has become the point of entry for gunrunning activities. The zone is being used to smuggle in FAL rifles, which are destined for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas. This was reported by Dijin Director Col. Montenegro during a visit to Barranquilla. He thus confirmed information revealed by Army Commander General Manuel Alberto Murillo. The warning about the guerrilla forces' rearming has been issued less than a month before the new round of talks between the government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB].

In addition to the information about this border area, military intelligence has revealed guerrilla plans to smuggle a large amount of weapons through Uraba. The Armed Forces claim that the information has proved once more the CGSB's lack of willingness to reach a peace agreement with the national government.

Aside from the gunrunning, reports in Barranquilla cite the possible turnover of Jose Santacruz Londono, a 47-year-old man whom the Colombian and U.S. intelligence services consider the most important Cali Cartel leader after the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers. No arrest warrants have been issued in Colombia against Santacruz Londono, aka Don Chepe, but he has to settle some accounts with the justice authorities in the United States where one of his relatives remains in prison.

[Begin recording] [Montenegro] There is nothing specific for the time being.

[Cabal] Mr. Santacruz is not at any of the military or police installations?

[Montenegro] Not yet. [end recording]

Drug Traffickers Operate in Cordoba Department

PA0701141092 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Dec 91 p 8A

[Text] Monteria—On 29 December, Colonel Carlos Leon Gomez Mateus, commander of the 11th Brigade, said drug traffickers have turned Cordoba Department into a springboard for drugs being sent abroad. The officer recognized, however, that the police and the Army had dealt strong blows to the drug-trafficking ring operating in the region. They have seized 38 tons of cocaine from them.

Meanwhile, three more of the five men arrested on 27 December at Brasilia Farm, Canalete jurisdiction, were identified on 29 December. Seven tons of cocaine were seized and an airstrip was destroyed on Brasilia Farm. The three men identified on 29 December are: Carlos Alberto Rodriguez Ruiz, from Barranquilla; Jorge Hernan Patino Gonzalez, from Armenia; and Argemiro Meza Chacon, from Cerrito (Valle Department). Carlos Julio Molano, who is from Duitama and is a first sergeant in the Colombian Air Force, as well as a woman and her children who took care of the house, were also arrested during the operation.

The brigade reported that the airstrip found on Brasilia Farm, previously known as La Posada, had a 923 meter runway that was later extended to 1,000 meters to allow larger planes to land. The airstrip was reopened about 5 months ago. It had been destroyed when a creek near the airstrip flooded.

Canalete is a municipality near the maritime ports of Los Cordobas, Cristo Rey, and Arboletes.

Roundup of Guerrilla Activities 25 Dec-2 Jan

PA0301144092

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on guerrilla activities in Colombia monitored from Spanish-language media from 26 December to 2 January.

Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 at 0100 GMT on 26 December broadcasts a report that on the morning of 25 December Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebels attacked a police station in Piedrancha, Narino. "Three policemen, three civilians, and one rebel" were killed in the attack.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network at 1200 GMT on 26 December broadcasts a report that "three rebels were killed and another was wounded during heavy fighting in El Bagre in northeast Antioquia Department." The same station reports that "three members of a single family were murdered by alleged members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN]" in Carmen De Bolivar, Tocoloa municipality, Bolivar Department. In Martin Alonso, Cordoba municipality, in central Bolivar, "six heavily armed men killed farmer Alvaro Rafael Ramirez Quiroz." The report concludes by stating that in the north of the department, Juan Carlos Chamorro was "shot to death by five rebels."

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 27 December broadcasts a one-minute report that rebels "who apparently were members of FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia," kidnapped U.S. citizen (Wills Latinus), 25, in Patia Municipality, southern Cauca Department.

Paris AFP in Spanish at 1742 GMT on 29 December carries a 100-word report that three ELN rebels were killed by Colombian Army troops in skirmishes in Uraba, Antioquia Department on 29 December.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 29 December broadcasts a one-minute report that, according to authorities, there was another guerrilla attack on the oil pipeline leading from Cano Limon to Ayacucho. The attack took place in La Vega, Convencion jurisdiction, Norte de Santander Department on 28 December.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 30 December carries a three-minute report that 15 people were killed and six others wounded in terrorist actions carried out by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNGSB, in Atlantico, Santander, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, and Arauca Departments. Five people were killed in Malambo, Antioquia Department; four others were killed by unidentified individuals in Bello, northern Medellin, Antioquia Department; a group of hired assassins killed five people inside a house in Palmira, Valle del Cauca Department; and in Arauca Department, an EL TIEMPO correspondent was murdered by a member of the FARC. No dates were given for these reports.

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1927 GMT on 30 December carries a 100-word report that, according to military sources, four CNGSB guerrillas were killed in clashes with the Army in different areas of Antioquia Department on 29 December. Three rebels were killed in La Fortuna river, Mutata Municipality. The body of another guerrilla killed in a clash was found in Cocorna Municipality on 29 December.

Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 1 January carries a one-minute report that ELN guerrillas staged five attacks in Boyaca, Cesar, and Antioquia Departments. "As a result, four guerrillas, a policeman, and his wife were killed; 11 soldiers were wounded; five people were kidnapped." The most serious incident occurred in Chita, northern Boyaca Department, where some 200 ELN guerrillas clashed with 13 policemen "during the night." As a result, "a policeman and his wife were killed."

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 2 January carries a one-minute report saying seven policemen are being held hostage by FARC guerrillas who kidnapped the policemen after an attack on Chita, Boyaca Department.

Peru

Congress Promulgates Budget Law for 1992

PA0801045992 Paris APF in Spanish 0428 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Lima, 7 Jan (AFP)—On the night of 7 January the Peruvian Congress promulgated the general budget for 1992 that President Alberto Fujimori had questioned and returned to the Congress, it was officially reported. [passage omitted]

Following two days of debates in an extraordinary session called by the president to analyze his observations, Congress confirmed, with 146 votes in favor and 54 against, the original bill without heeding any of the president's observations.

Congress President Roberto Ramirez del Villar promulgated the budget law following the vote, using a constitutional provision that empowers the Congress to put the law into force if the president does not. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Acquits Former President Garcia

PY0701161892 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] A special tribunal of the Supreme Court yesterday definitively acquitted former President Alan Garcia Perez, who faced constitutional charges for alleged illegal enrichment. Prosecutor Maria Herminia Drago is known to have appealed the decision before the special tribunal members, but legal proceeding specialists said that the appeal would be immediately rejected. Drago could also file a complaint with the 1st Chamber of the Supreme Court, but it will be necessary to wait for the designation of new Supreme Court chamber members in 1992.

Bounty on MRTA, Shining Path Leaders Increased

PA0701152992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1521 GMT 6 Jan 92

[Text] Lima, 4 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Two organizations active in the antisubversive struggle announced an increase in their reward for the heads of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] and Shining Path leaders.

"United Against Crime" and the "Force of Law Association" have offered $25,000 for the capture of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman Reynoso and $20,000 for MRTA leader Victor Polay Campos.

Initially, $10,000 had been offered for their capture, but as the leaders whereabouts could not be determined, the two organizations decided to increase the rewards and advertise them through the local media.

Guzman Reynoso, known as "Presidente Gonzalo," is regarded as the harassed Peruvian democracy's number one enemy. He has been sought since 1980 when Shining Path began its armed struggle.

"Commander Rolando," as Polay Campos is also known, is also wanted by the government's counterinsurgency forces, which in the past few weeks have had bloody clashes with the Tupac Amaru guerrillas in the Peruvian jungle.

In July 1990, Polay staged a spectacular mass escape of MRTA rebels from a top-security Lima prison.

The antisubversive organizations have asked for people who know the location of the two leaders to report to the police over the telephone using pseudonyms.

Fujimori Interviewed About Events of 1991

PY0701230292 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Dec 91 Sunday Section pp 16-19

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Mariella Balbi and Alejandro Sakuda at Government House in Lima on 26 December]

[Text] [LA REPUBLICA] Mr. President, are you satisfied with 1991? We are certain that...

[Fujimori] We have made progress, we have made achievements, but that obviously is not enough because the people still have problems. The overall results are positive.

[LA REPUBLICA] What are the negative aspects?

[Fujimori] The way in which the cholera outbreak was handled. The people were not given sound information. At first it was hastily asserted that cholera was carried by fish. That was a very serious mistake. Fishermen had no work, and the neediest did not have an adequate protein intake.

[LA REPUBLICA] What criticism by the opposition during the past o[illegible] one-half years do you deem valid?

[Fujimori] I do not r[illegible]mber any one in particular. I have not stopped to thin[illegible]bout that. Can you give me an example...

[LA REPUBLICA] Not having been able to organize the social emergency program during your first year.

[Fujimori] The PAS [expansion unknown] is working perfectly. It has been reorganized. It has undergone a moralization process and food is now being distributed to 50,000 families.

[LA REPUBLICA] In 1992 will you continue to be as bellicose as you were during 1991. You prefer that style, do you not?

[Fujimori] The truth is that I get straight to the point. I believe that, to a certain degree, the issues I have raised have been overcome.

[LA REPUBLICA] In what sense?

[Fujimori] For example, I seriously questioned the funds the two houses of Congress allocated for themselves. I was shocked to see the Chamber of Deputies approve a budget of 121 million Peruvian soles.

[LA REPUBLICA] Deputy Heysen maintains that the presidential payroll is more or less double the congressional payroll.

[Fujimori] I would like him to pinpoint any excessive expenditures. I have reduced every type of expenditure in goods and services, and the number of personnel has been reduced by 30 to 40 percent. A fully austere policy is practiced here.

[LA REPUBLICA] Are you going to request a special session of Congress, or are you going to let Congress do this?

[Fujimori] I am in no rush, because we still have 15 days to request the special session.

[LA REPUBLICA] You are facing several problems. Are you going to implement the decrees related to the antiterrorist struggle that were repealed by Congress?

[Fujimori] The struggle against terrorism is my government's main concern. The strategy has been adopted. This is the first time there has been a strategy. It was drawn up taking into account the politicians' proposals...

[LA REPUBLICA] They do not realize that, because they feel they have not been taken into account...

[Fujimori] In any case, we are going to adjust their proposals to the strategy we have designed.

[LA REPUBLICA] If no political party agrees with you on this issue, why do you not become more flexible taking into account that they do agree with your economic proposals?

[Fujimori] We must defend our position to be able to reach a conclusion. As an example, I will mention the peasant defense patrols.

The government proposes that the peasant defense patrols be armed under the supervision of the Armed Forces. There is close cooperation. The peasant defense patrols alone cannot confront the terrorists. Congress has derogated that decree and proposed that the peasant defense patrols fall under the jurisdication of the municipalities. I have lived in the interior and know that if this were the case, they would not have the support of the people. They might even be manipulated by political groups. The peasant defense patrols must be apolitical. Fortunately there are conscionable groups in Congress that will reject that.

[LA REPUBLICA] Does placing the peasant defense patrols, the shanty towns, the interior of the country, and the universities under the Army's tutelage mean militarizing everything, even your office...?

[Fujimori] We must fight terrorism in a pragmatic way. If there is someone who maintains that the struggle against terrorism can be fought without the help of the Armed Forces, I would like to know how. What would happen? Simply that physicians, engineers, and nurses would be filled with bullets by terrorists. Why do we not let the Army experts, duly organized, for example, rebuild highways in those areas where civilians cannot operate? This example should be used in universities and other areas. We have wasted 11 years in our struggle against terrorism. We require a protective wall formed by members of the Armed Forces precisely so the civilian forces may get organized. The ultimate objective is that the civilians may defend themselves from terrorism.

[LA REPUBLICA] What solution would you offer on the case of Mrs. Emma Hilario, who was shot by Shining Path members, and on similar cases of leaders who were either murdered or threatened?

[Fujimori] What was done in La Raucana, for instance. The Army entered peacefully there....

[LA REPUBLICA] It should also enter San Juan de Lurigancho, Pamplona Alta, and Villa El Salvador.

[Fujimori] The Army does not have to be physically present. I will possibly order soon the withdrawal of all troops from universities. I will do that as soon as the students are organized, as soon as they become more responsible.

[LA REPUBLICA] That would mean dispensing with the Council for Peace, which consists of representatives from political parties. Everything is thus subordinated to military support.

[Fujimori] Military support is used in those areas where it is required. In those areas where it is not necessary, we call upon the Council for Peace, or the implementation of a nonmilitary strategy. What would you have done in Ene, San Marcos University, and La Raucana? Tell me....

[LA REPUBLICA] Those are isolated cases....

[Fujimori] The Armed Forces have entered only in those places. Talk to the people of Puno and Ene. What are they asking for? They want the military forces to stay there.

[LA REPUBLICA] Do you accept the notion that the people do not trust the Armed Forces either?

[Fujimori] If that is the case, we will have to correct it. I am not fatalistic in that respect. I have changed the Armed Forces directives. I will not follow the course taken by previous governments. Why are you prejudging me in that regard? That is precisely the change I am promoting.

[LA REPUBLICA] Is the pacification you are proposing based on the policy you just mentioned?

[Fujimori] The policy is based on experience. The strategy implemented through the legislative decrees was not formulated in an office. It is based on our own experience. I already mentioned the cases of the universities, of Ene....

[LA REPUBLICA] The Shining Path has a foothold in urban districts....

[Fujimori] True, but that does not mean that it is making progress. Shining Path terrorists are able to kill people, but in so doing they lose face in the eyes of the people. In Horacio Zeballos they killed a local leader, but the residents responded by electing a sister of the slain leader. The people are reacting. There is infiltration by terrorists, but they are not winning supporters.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will you veto the budget law?

[Fujimori] I still have four days to do that. I am studying the law thoroughly. If necessary, I will veto it. I will not veto it for one or two articles. I will veto it if it will affect our economic process. Do not forget that I received the law on the 23d.

[LA REPUBLICA] Last year you had problems because you vetoed some articles....

[Fujimori] We learned something from that experience. The main thing is that the best national interests must prevail.

[LA REPUBLICA] What topics will you discuss at your upcoming meeting with Senate President Felipe Osterling?

[Fujimori] That has yet to be coordinated. I have not discussed it with Senator Osterling.

[LA REPUBLICA] What would you like to discuss with him?

[Fujimori] I am willing to discuss any topic. We can talk about any subject....

[LA REPUBLICA] Even about soccer....

[Fujimori] Of course.

[LA REPUBLICA] Do you share Osterling's view that confrontation and friction between branches of government must be ironed out?

[Fujimori] There will be disagreements as long as there are inconsistencies regarding such matters as the handling of the budget.

[LA REPUBLICA] Why do you hold so much resentment toward Congress?

[Fujimori] I do not hold any resentment toward Congress. I am concerned about the way the budget is managed. The country is going through a crisis and we must all lead a truly austere life. The deputies have to accept that. I meant well when I criticized them about that.

[LA REPUBLICA] You did not privatize anything in 1991. Will you do so in 1992?

[Fujimori] I am determined to carry out the privatization process.

[LA REPUBLICA] Which companies are at the top of your list?

[Fujimori] For instance, the Popular Bank. Just look at the inconsistencies: A law has been passed to repeal two executive branch decrees to rationalize the bank's personnel to make it more effective. What is it that we want after all? If we want to privatize, we must rationalize personnel. The criticism we are receiving about that is unfair.

[LA REPUBLICA] The Continental Bank?

[Fujimori] It is included in the list.

[LA REPUBLICA] The State Petroleum Agency?

[Fujimori] As long as it remains competitive, I am not willing to replace a state monopoly with a private monopoly.

[LA REPUBLICA] The Central Peru Mining Enterprise?

[Fujimori] It is privatizable. To make its privatization feasible, it will be divided into several units.

[LA REPUBLICA] The Peruvian Iron and Steel Enterprise?

[Fujimori] I wish we could get a buyer at this time. There, too, we must rationalize personnel.

[LA REPUBLICA] Channel 7?

[Fujimori] It will remain a state-owned enterprise.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will 1992 be better than 1991; will we get fresh money?

[Fujimori] Yes. There will be some reactivation, but that does not mean that the people's situation will improve immediately.

[LA REPUBLICA] What about the budget to be allocated to the National Fund for Social Development and Compensation [Foncodes]?

[Fujimori] Besides external resources, $300 million of the fiscal resources will be earmarked for the institution.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will you use the Glass of Milk Program, the Kitchen Soups, and the Mothers Clubs organizations?

[Fujimori] Foncodes is not an executive institution. We will use all the existing organizations.

[LA REPUBLICA] As for Ecuador, will the problem be solved during the January meeting with Rodrigo Borja, or will this be the first of a series of meetings?

[Fujimori] It will be a continuation of the beginning.

[LA REPUBLICA] The beginning of the end.

[Fujimori] You should not be very demanding. We have tried to create an atmosphere of confidence and friendship.

[LA REPUBLICA] What concrete proposal will you bring in your baggage?

[Fujimori] I do not want to make predictions. We will take essential steps to try to find solutions.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will you appoint the Joint Command chief?

[Fujimori] According to the laws, Army Chief of Staff Nicolas Hermoza is the Joint Command chief.

[LA REPUBLICA] You signed the decrees appointing Admiral Arnaez as the naval general commander. What will happen in the FAP [Peruvian Air Force]?

[Fujimori] No matter what law is in force, General Velarde will be the general commander until 1992.

[LA REPUBLICA] What will happen with the naval commander if Congress again rejects your decrees?

[Fujimori] He was appointed in keeping with a decree promulgated by the legislative branch. No law has a retroactive effect.

[LA REPUBLICA] Why do you harshly attack former President Belaunde? You maintained a close friendship in the past.

[Fujimori] I did not attack him. I replied to his commentaries on free education.

[LA REPUBLICA] Did they bother you?

[Fujimori] No. I wanted to explain the real management of free education. Some 24,000 classrooms could have been built with better management.

[LA REPUBLICA] Belaunde said that a similar number of classrooms could have been built with the money paid to Belco [not further identified].

[Fujimori] This is another matter that I do not want to discuss.

[LA REPUBLICA] Have you become antipopulist?

[Fujimori] No. I defend the people's interests.

[LA REPUBLICA] Next year, 1992, will be an electoral year. Will you promote a candidate? There are rumors that you will support Caceres Velasquez.

[Fujimori] That is not true. I will promote candidates in the main electoral districts.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will they belong to the Change 90 movement?

[Fujimori] Not necessarily. They can be independent candidates.

[LA REPUBLICA] You have criticized the law declaring a state of emergency for the nation's agriculture. What actions will you take, since agriculture is in a dramatic situation?

[Fujimori] Support is being provided. For example, seeds are being distributed in the Chira valley and fertilizers in Puno. Whatever possible is being done. It would be wrong to return to subsidies.

[LA REPUBLICA] Farmers do not want subsidies, they want credits ..

[Fujimori] We do not have the means to finance them ...

[LA REPUBLICA] But there will be no agriculture ...

[Fujimori] Not necessarily, because statistics do not show that agriculture is in such a bad situation.

[LA REPUBLICA] Is the antidrug agreement paralyzed?

[Fujimori] We established a six-month deadline to get into the details of the actions. That stage regarding details has not yet been entered. Peru has done its part.

[LA REPUBLICA] U.S. sources said that Peru has not submitted a project and has not appointed a representative. The U.S. Government appointed Bob Martinez. Who is the Peruvian representative?

[Fujimori] He was appointed while I was away. Hernando de Soto is the Peruvian representative. The proposal must be agreed upon by the two parties...

[LA REPUBLICA] When will the proposal be made?

[Fujimori] Soon, I hope. We have no date.

[LA REPUBLICA] Have you discussed this matter with the U.S. ambassador?

[Fujimori] Not yet.

[LA REPUBLICA] You said that apparently drug traffickers have a lobbyist in Congress, because the decree on money laundering was abolished. Do you have any evidence of this?

[Fujimori] Congress made explanations that for me are unsatisfactory, because the discovery of the crime typified by Congress does not punish the criminals who practice money laundering.

[LA REPUBLICA] Do you believe that progress is being made in human rights?

[Fujimori] The violation of human rights has been significantly reduced, although the military are still committing excesses.

[LA REPUBLICA] You said that the police who commit crimes will be tried by civilian courts. Will the same action be taken against military personnel?

[Fujimori] The action will be the same for military and police.

[LA REPUBLICA] What are your plans for the new year festivities?

[Fujimori] I will spend time in the province.

[LA REPUBLICA] Will you dance?

[Fujimori] I enjoy being in the countryside. I am austere ...

[LA REPUBLICA] If you do not dance, do you get bored?

[Fujimori] I am a bit bored with dancing.

[LA REPUBLICA] What rhythm do you like?

[Fujimori] I like the huayno [Peruvian dance].

[LA REPUBLICA] What about chicha [alcoholic beverage]?

[Fujimori] I like it.

Uruguay

Government Signs Accord for IDB Loan

PY0301181792 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Dec 91 p 8

[Summary] President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Enrique Iglesias, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, signed a $35-million loan agreement at Government House on 23 December 1991. The loan will be used to finance a National Science and Technology System for Industry. Education Minister Guillermo Garcia Costa has explained that the main goal "is to update Uruguayan scientific and technological know-how, which is the basis for economic and social development in the country."

More than $10 million will be assigned to the productive sector, projects for scientific and technological services, training for nearly 1,300 people, and the institutional reinforcement of the National Scientific and Technological Council.

The loan will be disbursed over a period of four years and will be repaid over 25 years, with a four-year grace period.

Guyana

Parliament Approves Bill for Elections in 1992

FL2812195291 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 28, CANA—After almost three hours of sometimes heated debate, the 65-seat National Assembly on Friday formally approved a bill to postpone elections in Guyana until next year. The arguments of parliamentarians from the People's Progressive Party (PPP), the only of three parties present in Parliament, were brushed aside as 46 of 53 government members voted to approve the bill.

The four-clause Constitution (Amendment) (Number Four) Bill 1991, piloted successfully by Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Keith Massiah, amends certain clauses of the Constitution for the 1992 elections. One amendment now allows Parliament to be dissolved on or before September 30, 1992. This has triggered fears from opposition parties that the government is laying the foundation for another December election.

The opposition People's Progressive Party argued in Parliament Friday that the September date was too far off and suggested that it be restricted to May 31 to facilitate elections by June. Massiah however said that the bill also provides through a clause for an earlier dissolution if the Elections Commission reports it has come up with a pure voters list early. Elections were postponed from mid-December because of a heavily flawed voters list.

The legislation, to be formally approved by President Desmond Hoyte, also approved a three-man quorum plus the chairman of the Elections Commission for the constitutional body.

"We feel that the cut-off date (of September 30) is too long and our proposal for the cut-off of May was a reasonable proposal and should have been accepted," Reepu Daman Persaud, PPP frontbencher, told CANA Saturday in a reaction to the passage of the bill.

"We feel strongly that elections should be held within the first six months of next year."

President Hoyte Delivers New Year Message

FL0201130392 Bridgetown CANA in English 2131 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 1, CANA—Guyana President Desmond Hoyte, reflecting on a "peaceful and orderly" revolution in the economic management of his country has called on nationals to continue on this path in 1992. Hoyte attributed a projected 5 per cent economic growth in 1991 to "work, zeal, and commitment," with increased production and efficiency in "almost every sector and sub-sector."

"... We have to stay on course, and not deviate from the policies that are proving to be so right," he told Guyanese in a New Year's message.

A general election postponed last year, is to be held by mid-year and the opposition parties are generally against the privatisation and economic liberalisation policies Hoyte has pursued since he took over leadership of the People's National Congress party and the government on the death of Forbes Burnham in the mid-1980's. Burnham's state control policies are blamed for Guyana's

poor economic performances and a stifling U.S. 2 billion dollar debt built up over the past two decades.

Hoyte recalled 1991's bumper rice crop, a reversal in sugar production declines, increased bauxite sales, and gold production at its highest in 75 years. In addition foreign exchange reserves of U.S. 110 million dollars were the highest in the 26 year history of the Bank of Guyana (Central Bank) he added.

He said 1992 promises to be a year of increased economic activity with a reduction in corporate and consumption taxes from Wednesday expected to stimulate private sector performance. Hoyte promised to examine the possibility of increased wages and salaries for public sector workers "within the context of available fiscal resources," paying particular attention to teachers and nurses.

He also promised rehabilitation of infrastructure and public and private sector housing developments to stem a shortage. Saying the economic performance had vindicated his government's policies and programmes, Hoyte said it was important that they be not interrupted and proposed that 1992 be designated the year of "good order, high productivity, and enhanced rewards."

Fourteenth Political Party Enters Election Race

FL0401005292 Bridgetown CANA in English 2159 GMT 3 Jan 92

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 3, CANA—Guyana got its 14th political party Friday. The Guyana Labour Party (GLP) was launched, promising the Guyanese electorate "clear-cut and decisive" leadership. The GLP was born from the Civic Reform Movement, Guyanese Action for Reform and Democracy (GUARD), which had proposed what it called a "civic list" of candidates for the next general election.

Leader, Nanda Kishore Gopaul, told journalists that the party will focus on the protection of working people's interests, the rights of people to full jurisdiction over their property, the removal of all forms of discrimination, and an economic system which protects all of these rights.

However, Gopaul, 40, a former president of the National Association of Agricultural, Commerical, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE), a militant union here, avoided questions on the GLP's economic policies. He promised that all eoconomic isusues will be dealt with in the party's election manifesto, to be launched within the next three months. The new party leader denied that his organisation is socialist-oriented and said that the GLP "supports" and "believes" in the free enterprise system and will open the country to foreign investment. Gopaul said that a GLP government would have to deal with international lending agencies, but said that some of the terms would have to be renegotiated because of their harshness.

"We will have to deal with international lending agencies. We cannot escape that, but we believe that some of the conditionalities which have been imposed on this country are harsh and ought to be renegotiated," he said. "Of course, we will not go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and say, we don't have any alternative. You don't bargain like that," he said. "That is one of the failings of the present government; they have gone there virtually begging, without any alternative position, without any support from the Guyanese people, and because of that, this (current) IMF programme will be a failure," he predicted. Gopaul's deputy is former Guyana and West Indies cricket opening batsman Basil Butcher.

The GLP leader claimed that the civic list, which he headed, was "pressured" by the people into forming a full-fledged party. He also denied reports that public support for the civic list had dwindled so rapidly that it almost forced it into oblivion.

"Our meetings throughout this country have been well attended," he said. "I don't think that our meetings were a failure. In fact, we were encouraged by them. The meetings of all the other political parties cannot be said to compare with what we have had over the last three-month period."

GUARD, launched two years ago, attracted sizeable crowds at rallies in the capital, Georgetown, but the crowds dwindled noticeably when it launched its "civic list."

Suriname

President Said Unwilling To Confront Bouterse

FL0701140992 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] The Surinamese news agency says President Ronald Venetiaan seems unwilling to risk a confrontation with Army commander and former strongman Desi Bouterse. Commander Bouterse had criticized the government last week for plans to trim the Army's power and for admitting a military representative in upcoming aid talks with the Netherlands. Defense Minister Siegfried Gilds says Mr. Venetiaan should meet with Mr. Bouterse to see if any further cooperation between the Defense Ministry and the Army may be possible.